

HOUSTON VOICE

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IN THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

Sports - Martina
still on top

— — —
What ever happened
to Dave Kopay?

Message of Sixth Houston Conference: new hope in AIDS management, treatment

By SHERI COHEN DARBONNE

Houston Voice Editor

Advances and new approaches in the management and treatment of HIV infection have increased the options, but also presented new challenges, for health care providers, keynote speaker Dr. Paul Volberding told an audience of primarily physicians, service providers and health care professionals at the Sixth Houston Conference on AIDS in America last Friday, March 25.

There is reason for hope, he said, that AIDS is becoming a manageable disease, because researchers' increased understanding is resulting in new and promising agents and because of a rapid expansion of available and effective prophylaxis against AIDS-related infections.

At the same time, there is now more professional debate over treatment approaches, and that has made decisions more confusing.

Volberding, director of the AIDS program at San Fran-



Photo by Adrian Faith

Dr. Paul Volberding of San Francisco was keynote speaker and Lifetime Award winner at the Sixth Annual Houston Conference on AIDS

cisco General Hospital, gave an overview of current treatment options and questions, including when to start treatment with anti-retroviral drugs and the current status of protease inhibitor research.

Saying he would not attempt to identify "right" or "wrong" approaches, Volberding recommended that providers study trial data closely for themselves; help patients understand, as much as possible, the issues regarding their treatment

and assess the patients' desires regarding HIV therapy; then recommend therapy based on the provider's preferences modified by his or her knowledge of the individual patient's desires.

Other lectures at the conference included a presentation on insurance law and benefits by attorney Mitchell Katine, one of a few presentations at the conference that may have been geared more toward the HIV patient than the provider. Katine's presentation covered how to get insurance, keep it and use it, as well as the insurance implication of anti-

discrimination laws such as the Americans with Disabilities Act.

On Saturday, a special morning program devoted to HIV and women included lectures on pregnancy (Dr. Jane Mitchell) and the treatment of sexually transmitted diseases (Dr. Patricia Salvato) in HIV-positive women. A presentation on HIV and the Law geared specifically was given by attorney Mary Ann Bobinsky.

(Continued on Page 9)

Texas, Harris County GOP sway far to the right; Log Cabin endorsement renounced by state leader

From STAFF and WIRE REPORTS

As the Radical Right tightened its stranglehold on the local and state Republican Party structures, the Texas chapter of Log Cabin Republicans found itself caught in the middle of a verbal crossfire between the Texas Party Chair and the challenger he will face at the GOP state convention.

State GOP Chair Fred Meyer of Austin last week publicly renounced his endorsement by Log Cabin, an organization that works for Gay and Lesbian representation within the Republican Party. Meyer said Wednesday, March 23, that the endorsement was an attempt by his opponent, Tom Pauken of Dallas, to mislead GOP delegates who will vote in the Party Chair race.

"As chairperson of the Republican Party of Texas, I strongly support the party platform, which is opposed to homosexuality and to any attempts to present homosexuality as an acceptable lifestyle," Meyer said. He added that he was "sure" the Log Cabin endorsement was orchestrated by the Pauken campaign "to misrepresent my positions."

Pauken denied he had anything to do with the endorsement. "Fred's comments would be laughable and ludicrous if they weren't such outrageous lies," he said.

Paul von Wupperfield, state president of Log Cabin, reacted with amazement at Meyer's charges: "Why would we want to help (Pauken)?" he intoned. Pauken is aligned with the most conservative wing of the Texas GOP.

Von Wupperfield said Meyer has met with the group in the past and that Meyer supporters had sought the organization's help and endorsement.

He added that he did not understand the denials. "I'm disappointed. It's as if Mr. Meyer is telling one group one thing and another something else," he said.

Meyer, however, said he has never met with the group although he has met with individual members in the past.

About 6000 Texas GOP delegates will elect a chairperson at the party's state convention, June 10-11 in Fort Worth.

Squeaking into the delegation in a narrow vote at the District 17 convention last weekend was incumbent Harris County GOP Chair Betsy Lake.

Lake, last year, came under criticism from party conservatives, led by right wing crusader Steven Hotze, primarily over her overtures to the local Log Cabin chapter. The division over social issues caused a rift in the local party structure that dominated debate in the weekend caucuses at seven district conventions. Resolutions to strike abortion from the party platform failed at each Harris County meeting.

Delegates, instead, passed resolutions in support of a constitutional amendment outlawing abortion and against Gay rights in the district meetings.

In the April 12 runoff, Lake faces right winger Jim Kennedy, a former member of the rabidly anti-Gay Straight Slate. In a curious twist, Hotze recently withdrew his backing of Kennedy.

Mexican granted U.S. asylum based on persecution of gays

SAN FRANCISCO, Friday, March 25 (AP)—A gay man granted asylum in the U.S. after claiming he was harassed and raped by police in his native Mexico says the action saved his life.

The man, who identified himself with the pseudonym Jose Garcia, told a news conference Thursday that he hoped the Immigration and Naturalization Service decision sent a signal to all homosexuals "that there are countries in the world which respect the human rights of all citizens."

Garcia, who said he was in his 30s and had been in the United States illegally for about a decade, won the right to stay permanently on March 18. That right "saved my life," he said.

"As a gay man in Mexico, life was made intolerable for me," he said at a news conference. "I had no one to turn to. When I learned that being gay in the United States was not only tolerated but even accepted in some areas, I had only one

desire: to flee Mexico for some kind of freedom in the United States."

Garcia said he had established a "well-founded fear of persecution" in Mexico because of his membership in a particular "social group."

The decision was the first time that the INS has granted asylum based on a claim of persecution involving sexual orientation, said Ronald Silberstein, Garcia's attorney.

The INS had not previously concluded that homosexuals were a "social group," a category protected by asylum laws if fear of persecution is established, Silberstein said. He said the decision, though not legally binding on other INS officers, should establish a precedent for similar cases elsewhere.

"We hope that this decision is a wake-up call to governments all over the world that the persecution on account of someone's sexual orientation is unacceptable," Silberstein said.

INS spokesperson Duke Austin confirmed that the decision had been reviewed at INS headquarters in Washington before it was issued.

The decision sets no precedent and does not mean that all gays from Mexico are eligible for asylum, Austin said. But he said it was a logical conclusion that "if a gay who's being persecuted in Mexico can get (asylum) on that grounds, then a gay who's being persecuted in any other country can get it on that grounds."

Last July an immigration judge in San Francisco granted asylum to a Brazilian homosexual, a decision the INS is appealing. The Board of Immigration Appeals in 1990 barred deportation of a Cuban homosexual.

Silberstein said Garcia's case was different because the INS did not oppose asylum, but instead "recognized that sexual orientation is clearly a social group." He said another distinction was that Garcia was not under a deportation order,

but instead walked into an INS office and applied for asylum.

Garcia, from Coahuila, Mexico, said he knew he was gay at an early age. He said cultural prejudice against homosexuals affected his family, quoting a grandmother as once telling him, "It would have been nice if you had been born a man."

As he grew up, he said, police arrested him for walking in certain neighborhoods, patronizing certain bars and attending certain parties, falsely accused him of crimes and extorted money from him.

Once when he was a teen-ager, he said, he and a friend were driving and were stopped by police, who told the friend to go home and get some money if he ever wanted to see Garcia again. While the friend was gone, he said, one of the officers raped him.

He said he spent an entire night crawling across the border at Calexico. After staying in Chicago and Miami, he said, he wound up in San Francisco,

where he has worked as a volunteer and a paid employee in gay-rights and anti-AIDS activities.

Despite those public activities, he declined to give his real name or allow photographs. "You don't know where the future will lead," he said.

Besides Garcia's experiences, the INS was also given evidence of the involvement of police and military authorities in the assassinations of homosexuals and doctors working against AIDS in certain parts of Mexico, Silberstein said.

An advocacy group, the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, said about 25 gay men and transvestites were killed in Chiapas between June 1991 and Feb. 1993 and that a Mexican government report had found irregularities in the local investigation of the killings.

A Message to our Readers and Advertisers from the Publisher and Editor of the Houston Voice

DON'T BE FOOLED

Things are not always what they seem.

Appearances can be deceiving, and words, as we in this business know better than anyone, can be tricky.

For example, this issue of the Houston Voice, in the spirit of observing "April Fool's Day," includes some items intended as satire or parody: "spoon" features and advertisements that may at first glance appear genuine, but they are not.

A graver, and more ironic, example may be noted in the history of the monumental event that our community will be recognizing world wide in June... and the direction in which the attitudes of many who will participate in the celebration have "evolved" from 1969 to the present. Stonewall, almost unanimously accepted by Gay/Lesbian historians as the birth of the modern Gay Rights Movement in America, was not a debate on ambiguous "human rights" issues between officials and well-heeled, politically correct but appropriately socially connected, self-appointed representatives of the Gay community.

No, the Stonewall Uprising was in fact a RIOT, led by fed-up customers defending a social institution that included them when no one else was inclined to do so. Those customers belonged to diverse populations in the Gay community and many were probably branded by more assimilationist contemporaries as its "misfits" or "undesirables": Drag Queens (and Kings), transsexuals, Butch/Femme Lesbian couples, Leathermen and women, hustlers, street kids and rowdy militants. The institution they risked imprisonment to protect was a Gay bar, the Stonewall Inn, that had been the target of repeated raids and harassment by the New York Police Department. There is the history.

Some people in our community will march on the United Nations to demand that its member organizations accept the terms of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but personally profess confusion as to whether and why those terms need be extended universally. How many, we wonder, are forgetting (or deliberately disregarding) what it is that we are celebrating?

We at the Houston Voice understand "The Gay Community" is in reality many communities bound together in a struggle for universal equal rights. We adopted the slogan "A Community News Publication" not to be closeted (Lord knows that wouldn't work!) but to be inclusive. We are working hard to become the VOICE of this rich and diverse HOUSTON population.

We have our critics. Obviously, no one publication can please all of the people all of the time. But this community is fortunate to have a

selection of several publications, local and state wide, weekly and monthly, each with its own unique features and its own personality. Each does its own thing well.

At the Houston Voice, we choose to highlight the news and viewpoints of the community, as well as reporting on the activities (small as well as large) of ALL of our organizations. You won't see us exclude, nag or "rag" on the bars; drag or camp; other Gay-oriented businesses; our transgendered, bisexual, pansexual and Gay-supportive heterosexual brothers and sisters, or other Gay and Lesbian publications, not because of advertising interests or lack of competitive spirit, but because ALL of these are a part of the rich tapestry of this community, which we are also proud to be a part of and a contributor to.

(OK, so parts of this particular issue may be a slight exception, but it's all in fun and Hey, it's our turn for a change!)

We are working hard to turn the Houston Voice into a publication the entire community can be proud of. We thank everyone who has extended us their compliments, support and suggestions in the past few months, and we hope you'll continue to watch us grow and change. Besides the dedicated professionals (*people engaged in a profession at which they are skilled and which provides their primary livelihood*) on our inhouse staff, we have many talented free-lance contributors and hope to continue to improve the content and quality of our newspaper.

We are certainly also grateful for all of the loyal readers who dutifully peruse our pages each week (even those who may criticize us afterward).

TAD NELSON, Publisher
SHERI COHEN DARBONNE, Editor
THE HOUSTON VOICE



Asian organization's purpose is social-educational, not political

OPINION COUNTER-POINT

By JOHN R. MELTON

Asians and Friends Houston

(The following is a response to an opinion by Aaron Dai, Elizabeth Lee and Truong Le, published in last week's issue #700 of the Houston Voice).

Asians and Friends Houston is chartered as a 501(c)3 non-political organization, which is why we cannot and do not "accept responsibility in political leadership." That is not our purpose.

Why is it so universal that those who point the finger and criticize are usually the same people who never contribute their time or ideas, unless it's spent trying to tear down rather than build up?

If Mr. Dai and Ms. Lee had spent as much time in positive energy as they took in writing their article, perhaps Asians and Friends Houston would better reflect their ideas.

The new rap/discussion group, recently formed, will be covering ANY topic that the Asians and Friends membership would like to discuss, such as HIV prevention, safe sex, growing up Gay and Asian, rejection, breakup of a relationship, cultural conflicts and how to avoid or cope with them, stereotypes, introductory language classes, how to say "no" when someone wants you to say "yes," to name a few.

Yes, we do sponsor a hearing-impaired orphan in Vietnam through the Pearl S. Buck Foundation, and we do distribute AIDS prevention literature in most of the major Asian languages. Not bad for an organization which just recently celebrated its first anniversary, and boasts a membership approaching 100.

Asians and Friends is NOT an activist organization, and was not designed as such. It sounds like Mr. Dai and Ms. Lee were and are confused about the purposes of Asians and Friends Houston. Truong Le is not even a member of our organization, so I trust he is getting his information from the aforementioned, each of whom have not even attended an Asians and Friends Houston function in recent history.

It sounds like there is definitely room for their proposed activist, ethnocentric group "Queer N'Asian," since Asians and Friends Houston will never endeavor to fulfill an activist or political niche.

One word of caution, however, to Mr. Dai and Ms. Lee: to create an organization from the ground up requires a lot of planning and hard work, not just words or rhetoric.

If you would like more information about Asians and Friends Houston, please write P.O. Box 740346, Houston, TX 77274-0346. We ARE more than a party group and are in the process of planning even more innovative ideas for the future.

Should there be an Ethics Investigation into Senator Helms taking \$200,000 in illegal campaign contributions?



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Counterpoint: Hill's voice no longer represents the Gay community

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From KENNETH P. WILK
Houston, Texas

(The following is a response to an opinion piece by activist Ray Hill, published in last week's issue of the Houston Voice).

In regards to Ray Hill's HGLPC arti-

cle (sic) last week, Mr. Hill is an angry voice whose views no longer represent our community. Just as true Christians were embarrassed by the antics of the extreme and vocal Religious Right's hypocrisies. And as a gay man, I am embarrassed by Mr. Hill and his cronies' hypocrisies.

Now, more than ever, as more people are standing up and showing their gay pride, we need to seize the day and celebrate our diversity as our

true strength. We are liberals and we are conservatives. We are Democrats and we are Republicans. We are all things that are different. And we are all things that are the same. We should have a moral obligation to use our talents for the good of the Gay community.

I joined the HGLPC and was elected to its board of directors to fight for the rights of all Gay men and women. I'm ready to face our enemies. To my

surprise, the enemy was us. I found the HGLPC is not financially bankrupt, but it is morally bankrupt. The fact of the matter is the HGLPC's membership and mailing list is at an all time low; we have less than 180 members.

We haven't paid our back taxes nor are we even a legal entity by Texas Law. I thought these are the problems we are suppose to be fixing. Instead, all we are doing is person-

ally attacking good people who are trying to pull this ox out of the ditch. The most shameful thing about this whole situation is where these people have tried to impugn the reputation of people who have given the best years of their lives, unselfishly, to the fight against AIDS and Gay rights (sic). To these people, all I can say is shame on you! P.S.: I went to the fights last week, and an HGLPC meeting broke out.

One door opens, another slams shut: Gays, immigrants and quake relief

GUEST COMMENTARY

By ROBERT BRAY

Fight the Right organizer, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

Gays, lesbians and bisexuals in Southern California are still repairing their homes, community centers and AIDS support offices following last January's massive earthquake. Many citizens affected by the trembler are rebuilding their lives with federal disaster assistance authorized by the U.S. Congress.

That federal assistance, \$8.6 billion for victims of the quake, came with the first-ever Federal non-discrimination clause that included sexual orientation. The legislation authorizing the money contained a little-noticed amendment that prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation in distributing emergency earthquake aid. It's the first time the government has banned anti-Gay discrimination in a federal program.

But the good news is bitter-

sweet. Because while the measure opens a door for Gay people, it slams shut another door for another vilified group at the top of the Far Right's attack list, immigrants.

The Gay-inclusive language appears in a controversial section of the legislation that bars assistance to "individuals not lawfully within the United States." The bill requires disaster aid officials to take "reasonable" steps to determine the immigration status of those seeking aid. The measure was quickly condemned by immigrant groups as an example of the rising tide of immigrant scapegoating now sweeping the nation.

Although gays are protected, the ban against immigrants will result in wholesale discrimination of another kind. All people should be eligible for earthquake relief regardless of immigrant status or sexual orientation. This is a humanitarian concern and politics should not be a part of the consideration.

The ban also reflects a fear

linked with racism. The majority of immigrants in the U.S. are, in fact, European. But the current immigrant bashing spree directs suspicion primarily toward Latinos and Asians.

Anti-immigrant sentiment directly affects gay people. Many undocumented immigrants and those seeking asylum are Gay, Lesbian and Transgendered. The upcoming Stonewall 25 International March on the United Nations to Affirm the Human Rights of Lesbian and Gay People will highlight the fact we are of all nationalities and colors.

The Far Right, the same folks behind anti-Gay initiatives in several states, are fueling the anti-immigrant backlash. It uses many of the similar tactics against immigrants as it does against gays.

First, the concept of "protect rights" is narrowly defined. Gays are not a rightful minority and immigrants aren't American so neither should have protection, say the fundamentalists. Gays are demonized as a threat to

traditional family values. Immigrants are scapegoated as a threat to our economic security.

The Far Right aims to institutionalize discrimination against gays in the form of Colorado-style initiatives. It targets immigrants with laws that discriminate against foreigners and even their U.S. born children.

Scapegoating and bashing nurtures an environment of harassment and violence. This makes many gays think twice about coming out. It makes those hit hardest by disaster fearful of coming forward.

"The Far Right has been influential to altering political and ideological culture in this country so people are fairly accepting intolerance," says Cathi Tactaquin, executive director of the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. "They've made it easier for people to rationalize discrimination, to morally and legally justify it against immigrants or gays."

The current battle against gay

rights and immigrants pose a critical question about our country: Will our democracy expand to provide rights to an increasingly diverse population, or will it contract to limit rights to a few?

Gay, Lesbian and bisexual activists must work in alliance with immigrant, people of color, and other groups to expose the broader repressive of the Right, an agenda that attacks basic civil, human, labor, economic and reproductive rights. We must pour a stronger civil rights foundation for all. Then we can build a solid united front against intolerance that will result in a more inclusive democracy.

(For more information on immigration issues and fighting the right, contact: National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, 310 8th Street #307, Oakland, California 94607, (510) 465-1984 or the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Robert Bray, Field Organizer (415) 552-6448).

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Small Oregon town gives anti-gay rights campaign lopsided win

TURNER, Ore., Thursday, March 24 (AP)The Oregon Citizens Alliance has had many local victories in its anti-gay-rights campaign. The win this week in this small Marion County town was the most lopsided yet.

OCA-backed ballot measures, which ban government protection of homosexual rights, have passed in 20 cities and counties in Oregon. Such measures passed Tuesday in Turner, Marion County, Albany and Junction City.

In Turner, population 1270, the final tally was 348 yes and 93 no, or 79 percent to 21 percent.

The OCA found a perfect audience in a sleepy, conservative community where married couples inhabit two-thirds of households. Many are retired.

The OCA-backed Measure 9 passed here with 71 percent in 1992, but failed statewide.

Lauretta Rice, a 66-year-old mother of five and grandmother of 14, says she believes her feelings are fairly typical of other Turner residents.

"We are not anti-gay as the media always call us," she said. "We are not against people."

What they are against, says her husband Al Rice, is "special rights" for homosexuals and a "homosexual agenda" taught in Turner's schools.

"I was hoping it would win by an even larger margin," he said.

The lopsided victory didn't come as a surprise to anti-OCA forces.

"Actually, I expected it to go this way in Turner," said resident Tom Krise, who helped campaign against the measure. "It's a pretty conservative little community."

Krise, a teacher at Chemawa Indian School in Salem, said his side had no organization, unlike the OCA, which turned the issue into a debate about "special rights."

"We were just a few citizens who didn't like the idea of Turner becoming another city of hate," Krise said.

Mayor William Stuhr, 48, said the vote was against a way of life.

"It's a situation where Turner has spoken that they don't agree with that lifestyle," he said. "They believe that the measure prevents special rights given to (homosexuals)."

However, he said the measure wasn't really appropriate for Turner, because he knows of no gays in the community who have requested special rights.

"That's not to say I agree with the lifestyle," he said.

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(713) 529-8490
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Fax: (713) 529-9531
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Tad Nelson/publisher
Jim Cheek/production manager

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT
Sheri Cohen Darbonne/editor
John Reed/entertainment editor
Judith Meyer/book review editor

STAFF WRITERS:
Vada Carroll, Bob Ainsworth,
Jon Harrison, Javier Tamez

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:
David Batterson, Leonard Earl Johnson,
Brian Reed, Paul Varnell

CARTOONISTS
David Brady, Leanne Franson,
Robert Kirby, Cat Meyer

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Ray Downing, Bob Thomas

ADVERTISING SALES DEPARTMENT
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Denver police meet with gays, lesbians as part of communitywide recruiting

DENVER, Friday, March 25 (AP)Denver police officials met with gays and lesbians as part of a communitywide drive to attract new recruits to the Denver Police Department's aging ranks.

Before Thursday's meeting, news reports that police were recruiting homosexuals brought scores of calls to the Police Department. Police Chief David Michaud called a news conference to clarify that police are seeking recruits from all segments of the community not just homosexuals and sexual preference is not a hiring factor.

Police Sgt. Steve Cooper told people attending a recruitment meeting at the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Service Center of Colorado on Thursday that police are holding similar meetings with more than 100 community groups.

"We're an old police department," with half the force eligible to retire within five years, Cooper said.

Officer Angela Romero warned the 30 people present: "You need to be aware there will be some people who will resist you."

But she said this is changing rapidly, and the Denver Police Department "will be there to support you."

Denver police salaries start at \$27,312, but the city has had to cross state lines in recent years to assemble academy classes resembling the ethnic makeup of the city.

As of March 18, the department had received about 2,807 applicants for a class of 40 to 50 officers to begin in the fall.

Michaud said at the news conference Thursday that he would have no way of knowing whether lesbians or gays take the police test.

"We have no idea what the sexual preference of these applicants is because we do not inquire," he said. "And we don't think it's any of our business."



Insurance is available to cover costs of long term care, whether in a nursing home or at home

HEALTH NOTES

Mention the words "long term care" to most people, and the image that pops up is one of a nervous family sitting around a table, talking in stressfilled half-whispers about what to do with Grandma. While the elderly are still the primary population in America's nursing homes, however, various illnesses and disabilities, including those related to AIDS, now force many younger people to require some period of care in a setting other than home or hospital. Even people, such as elderly parents and disabled partners, who are able to live in a home setting, sometimes require in-home help that the primary care giver, if she or he is also the breadwinner of the household, cannot provide.

Most people, even those who consider themselves well-insured, often are not aware that coverage is available for the costs of long term care, that other types of policies usually don't, and that Medicaid only pays for such care after the person who needs it has consumed virtually all of his or her assets, says John Choate, LTC specialist with Amex Life Assurance Co. and publisher of Choate's, a quarterly newsletter dealing with the subject.

Such plans may cover in-home nursing care as well as care in a nursing home or adult (non-indigent) day care facility, Choate said.

Choate's company offers coverage to

people between the ages of 40 and 84 whose medical history reflects that they are in fairly good health. With this particular type of long-term care insurance, no blood or samples are taken, although a personal interview may be required if the applicant's medical records send up any "flags," Choate said. Even medical conditions, such as diabetes, that have kept some people from obtaining some other form of insurance may not necessarily disqualify those people from long-term coverage, he said, although there may be a "waiting period" for qualification. "The underwriting criteria is different from, for example, a life insurance policy," he said.

The policies are intended to protect the assets of those who require extended care, and are designed for people "who are not at the Medicaid level...and are interested in keeping from getting to that level," he added.

While the incidence of AIDS among Gay males is one concern, middle aged Gay people in good health should consider the reality of growing older, said Choate. No survey has been conducted to determine what percentage of the elderly population now in nursing homes are Gay or Lesbian, he noted.

Single people, particularly, are often left without a primary care giver or family member to step in if they become unable to take care of themselves, Choate added.

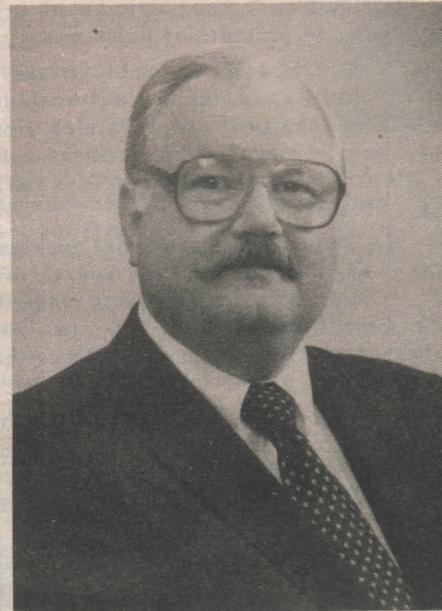
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The program for the nursery will be from 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM for newborns to 18 months.

Music...

The music program (for ages 18 months to age 3 and age 3 through kindergarten) will be held following the "Children's Sermon" at the 10:45 AM worship.

To volunteer or get more information about our Youth Ministries call 861-9149. There will be an introduction and orientation session in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, April 7, at 7 PM.

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ACLU lawyer: 'justice will come' for gay employees of Virginia

WILLIAMSBURG, Va., Friday, March 25 (AP) The American Civil Liberties Union's top Virginia lawyer has told about 30 homosexual employees of state colleges and universities that their struggle for recognition is like past civil rights efforts for women and blacks.

"Justice will come in this area," Stephen Pershing, legal director for the ACLU in Virginia, told the employees at a meeting Thursday at the College of William and Mary. "It's going to take a long time, but justice will come."

The employees are seeking health insurance and other benefits extended to their partners. The William and Mary faculty assembly, at the urging of language professor George Greenia, has voted twice to ask the school to allow such benefits.

But the requests prompted an outcry from conservative politicians, including Gov. George Allen. In February, Republicans in the House of Delegates, led by Minority Leader S. Vance Wilkins Jr. of Amherst County, introduced a budget amendment aimed at denying state health benefits to partners of homosexuals.

The General Assembly's involvement "was a sign that this would be a long battle," said Patrick Heck, chairperson of Virginians for Justice, a lobbying group for gays and lesbians.

Though the amendment eventually was stripped from the budget, Heck said, homosexuals were surprised that the issue received so much attention. "We might as well get these things on the table," he said.

Thursday's gathering was to attend a symposium at William and Mary entitled "Gays, Lesbians and the Meaning of Family." Employees from more than a half-dozen state schools attended.

Most of them said gay employees in higher education are protected by nondiscrimination policies but are far from securing benefits for their partners.

"We are dragging our feet," said Bernard Mayes, a dean and communications professor at the University of Virginia. "We are a timid bunch."

"It's not hostile, but it's not aggressively progressive," Lee Hanson, a graduate assistant at Old Dominion University, said of attitudes toward gays on the Norfolk campus. "But then, we are in Virginia."

Greenia urged his colleagues to make their presence known. "Staying in a closet does not do anyone any good," he said.

Greenia urged his colleagues to make their presence known. "Staying in a closet does not do anyone any good," he said.

IN MEMORY OF

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR

J. NICHOLAS "NICK" ESCOBEDO
FROM HOUSTON, TEXAS
DIED: JANUARY 16, 1994
AND HIS BROTHER

ARTHUR "ARCHIE" ESCOBEDO
FROM LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
DIED: FEBRUARY 15, 1994

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UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
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MARY FRANKIE TAYLOR HILL

Outdoor services will be held at 10:00 a.m. this Saturday, April 2, 1994 at Bell Park, 4800 Montrose.

JOHN SWEHLA

John Swehla, 55, died on Tuesday, March 22, 1994 due to complications of AIDS. A former chemist engineer, longtime resident and landlord of Cherryhurst/Montrose. He was an avid crossword puzzle fan and eclectic collector and a friend to a fortunate few.

Survived by his mother, Irene Swehla; sister, Mary Watz; brother, Kenneth Swehla, all of St. Louis, Missouri; friends, Reid, Steve, Tim and others of Houston; former longtime companion, Dick Henrichs of Kansas City, Kansas.

Services and internment were held in St. Louis on Saturday, March 26, 1994.

Donations may be made to Swehla House (housing for HIV positive persons), 2515 Mandell St., Houston, Tx 77006

"May he rest in peace"

HARVEY ARTHUR WALKER

Harvey Arthur Walker, 41, died in a local hospital. Graveside services were held March 17, 1994 at 2:00 p.m. at Houston National Cemetery under the direction of ALIEF-SHARPSTOWN FUNERAL HOME.

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Another one bites the dust (but I'll always be there for you)

FRIENDS OF TAD

By TAD NELSON

(Serious, thoughtful, deep and sensitive advice from an Ordinary Guy who really loves to dish it out...)

Dear Tad:

I have been a devoted friend of yours for a long time, following your column every week, and I've always believed every word of it. I never thought that Tad would ever give me a reason to doubt him, and I've always followed his advice. I've especially enjoyed your infrequent "Helpful Hints for PIN PALs" (People In Need of Pursuing A Life).

I even sent off for your recently published books "Keeping Your Trucker Happy" and "How's Your Peterbilt."

Recently, however, I read that there is no trucker, and no eighteen wheeler, either!

You lied to me, Tad! How dare you perpetuate such a lie, even under the guise of "entertainment" or "humor!" Since I can no longer trust you, I don't believe anything in your newspaper.

Fortunately, all is not lost. I have found a new columnist to idolize, one I can trust to tell the absolute truth all of the time. Not to mention help me pick out my Friday night wardrobe, and explain how we all simply must agree with every line item in the Clinton health care plan or we're going to hell in a handbasket, all at the same time! You might say the day of reckoning has arrived.

Sorry I ever thought of you as my friend.

Sincerely, Crushed but Reinflated in Houston

Dear Windbag:

Of course you fairweather friend types enjoy the PIN PALs. But obviously you still



don't have a life. Especially if you believe every word I say as the gospel truth.

Thanks for your recent purchase of my new books. In doing so, you too are keeping my Trucker happy. I hope you enjoy some of the more helpful hints in "Keeping Your Trucker Happy," like the one on how to saddle soap the interior of the sleeper cab after a rousing night of play. Or how to remove the incriminating Crisco prints from video cassette tapes before returning them to the rental stores. Remember that acetone based products do melt the plastic housing on the tapes, so your ex-lovers fingernail polish remover leftover from Garden Party is out.

You might have also found some of the info useful in "How's Your Peterbilt!," like which area of the cab to hang the sling, or how to use the designer stencils for making your own fantasy cab out of a Plain Jane sleeper cab.

As for your recent misinformation that there is no Trucker and no Peterbilt, bull-hockey! I sleep with the Trucker every night and know he exists, and there will be a picture of the Peterbilt in this week's edition of the Houston Voice.

However, I'm glad you jumped ship from this vessel of professionalism, and that you have found another, more politically correct hack writer to dote on. But you must be more naive than you let on. Be sure you understand the difference between truth, propaganda and paid advertisements.

So, you overblown, egotistical, tired bag of hot air. Don't let the ink from this publication stain your fingers again and we will both be happy! Won't we?

Your friend when needed again,

TAD



'Equity in education' policy keeps protection for Washington gay students

By DAVID AMMONS
FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

LACEY, Wash., Saturday, March 26 (AP)The state Board of Education has approved an "equity in education" policy that has been both criticized and praised for its call for equal opportunities for homosexual students.

Ironically, the most controversial element of the eight-point plan for stamping out bias and unequal educationthe few words dealing with gay students was no more than a rehash of existing state policy.

The new statement, approved Friday with only one dissenting vote, says all public school students have the right to equal access to education "without regard to race, creed, color, political and religious beliefs, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, marital or parental status, socioeconomic status, health status or ... disability."

The only new elements are the references to religious beliefs and health status. For years, the state has forbidden discrimination in the schools based on sexual orientation.

A day earlier, at a public hearing attended by more than 100 citizens, that provision was both denounced and praised.

Board members and staffers were amazed by the sudden controversy. The issue has become more high-profile

with the Legislature's recent debate on an anti-discrimination bill and with the filing of two anti-gay rights initiatives, said Carol Gregory, policy director for the state school superintendent's office.

"People are being inflamed," she said in an interview.

Anti-gay rights activists were angered by the board's decision to leave the language in the final draft. They said the policy can be used by local districts to permit recruiting of students into a homosexual orientation.

"You're playing a dangerous game when you're putting out generalities," said Stan Blunt, an Aberdeen parent of four sons.

"They're meddling with local control," said Eldon Larson of Bremerton.

Bob Larimer, Vancouver, spokesperson for Washington for Traditional Values, a group backing anti-gay rights Initiative 608, called the vote "ill-advised and inappropriate." He said it requires the schools to "make homosexuality the legal and societal and public health equivalent to heterosexual marriage."

No proponents spoke out at Friday's session. The previous day, backers said the policy should be retained and enforced. One young woman student cried as she told the board "This is not just an issue; it's a person."

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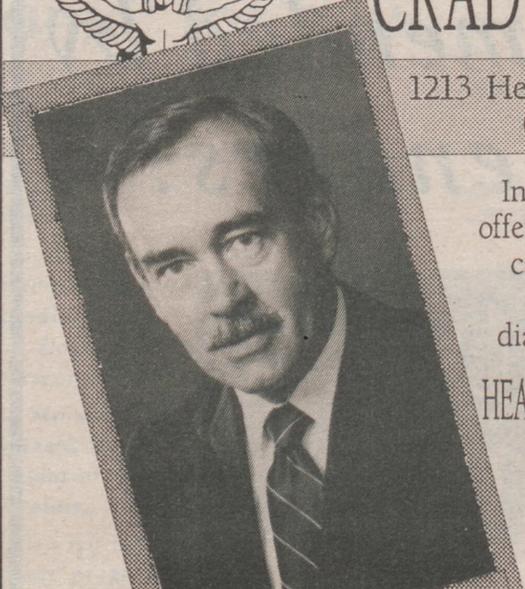
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David Kopay, first American football star to come out, 19 years later

YOURS TRULY IN A SWAMP

By LEONARD EARL JOHNSON
Houston Voice/New Orleans

Last week David Kopay phoned to say he has been asked to speak to and swear in the athlete at this summer's New York City Gay Games. Sweet news for a guy who put his football career on the line, and won, as America's first big pro to go publicly Gay.

Kopay was a football hero from college days on. In 1964, he co-captained the University of Washington's Rose Bowl team. From there he went to a ten year career with the pros. He played running back for the San Francisco Forty Niners, Detroit Lions, Washington Redskins, New Orleans Saints and Green Bay Packers.

It was 1975 when Kopay came out publicly. That year he was living in Washington D.C. Remember, in 1975 the late Sergeant Leonard Matlovich was challenging the Air Force's ban on gays, and the nation was nervously coming to understand that homosexuals were indeed everywhere. Even in

their couch potato dreams.

On Dec. 9, Lynn Rosellini had begun a series in The Washington Star that blazed a journalistic trail. Her front page headline read: "Homosexuals in Sports/Why Gay Athletes Have Everything To Lose."

Many objected vehemently to what Rosellini was writing. Wells Twombly, a San Francisco (of all places) sports columnist wrote, "What makes the Rosellini series so distressingly fraudulent is that it refuses to name names..."

What happened next put a jewel in the heavenly crown of David Kopay. He allowed his name to be printed in Rosellini's next story. A decision he sweated. He knew it would be pivotal. Today Kopay says, "My life has never been the same."

After coming out in The Washington Star, Kopay and Perry Deane Young coauthored The David Kopay Story (Arbor House). It was a hit and one of the first national-audience coming-out books. The book was revised in 1989. "I was very happy with the revision because it reached that

many more people," Kopay said. "I did the Larry King Show and a number of television shows."

He goes on laughing, "I'm kind of the token queer, now. Or the token jock! I went back on the Phil Donahue Show, and that worked real well. He was very pleased to see me, and I was very pleased to see him. In 1977, when I was first on his show, he was uninformed to the point of being almost homophobic. It was great to see how he had grown. But more importantly, he knew it and wanted to tell me."

Kopay lived in New Orleans' heavily queer French Quarter, when he played for the Saints. "I moved right into the Quarter because at that time I was kind of coming out. That was 1971. I was married and my wife knew everything."

"Coming to New Orleans and meeting a person so interesting as (photographer/painter) George Dureau and being exposed to different culture and art. Things that this athlete hadn't really experienced. In a way, I was getting out in Washington in 1969, but not to the freedom that exist down in New

Orleans.

"I hung over after the football season that year, for Mardi Gras. After that, my love with New Orleans was fixed. But you can read all that in the book."

Today, Kopay shares a home in southern California with two other men and lives with the mixed blessing of post football stardom.

LEJ: "What is your take on professional homophobes, in sports, or the military?"

DK: "I've been to bed with a number of quote-unquote straight men. Hell yes, I'm a good recruiter. If that's what you want to call it. What are they so nervous about? This whole thing about the military, you know, it's like what are they so nervous about? All the Marines do is pose and posture and want to be noticed anyhow, and then all of a sudden they are going to be nervous because some young man is going to take a look at their pee-pee. Give me a break!"

After retiring from football, Kopay says he had a hard time finding work. "I was too gay for the straight world, and too straight for the gay world." He finally

went to work selling floor covering for a firm in Hollywood owned by a favorite Aunt and Uncle. Admittedly a long way from the glamour of athletic super-stardom.

DK: "I've become the major buyer of stuff for Linoleum City of Hollywood, California."

LEJ: "I love that name."

DK: "It's a fabulously tacky name. We have to have everything if we're going to have a name like that. It's the most unique store in this country. At Christmas time for example, we give a luncheon for all our distributors!" A sign of the stores massive volume.

"We have a huge stock. We have a warehouse. I had no job, I had no money. The book tours were over. I knew I didn't want to become a political spokesperson because I thought that would be too difficult. I saw Leonard Matlovich get in over his head doing that. I didn't want it, because sometimes I want to just say, 'Go f... off!'"

In New York City, I hope all the athletes, gay and straight, listen when Kopay speaks to them. In fact, I hope the couch-potatoes listen, too.

HIPY outreach center moving; Men's Network to present 'Celebrating the Body Erotic;' 1500 Bunnies on the Bayou?

QUICK NOTES

The Houston Institute for the Protection of Youth's Montrose Outreach Center is moving to a new location. The new address will be 604 Westheimer.

HIPY officials said the agency would appreciate any contribution that can be made to aid in moving the facility to its new space. Some items on the organization's immediate need "wish list" are three window unit air conditioners; an electric lawn mower, weed eater, and power cord for these; a vacuum cleaner, shower stall, burglar bars for three windows, mini-blinds and non-upholstered furniture.

For more information, contact Randy Krepps at HIPY, 524-5757 between noon and 8:00 p.m.

Men's Network

On Wednesday, April 6, the Men's Network will present "Celebrating the Body Erotic," a basic introduction to the concepts of Tantric and Taoist traditions of sexuality and spirituality for Gay men in a "sex-negative" culture as taught by the "Body Erotic" School based in Oakland, Ca. Tom Crow, who is the Houston Coordinator, will present. The Men's Network is open to Gay and Bisexual Men and there is no cost for admission, although donations are accepted. Mon-



Deb-U-Not cast members (foreground): Rex Marzke and Robert Graham; (back row) Robert Grayson, Bret Duhon and Jerry Clifton, with escorts, Oscar and Chris

Bunnies on the Bayou

Let the games begin! Penny Productions Inc. has announced its 14th annual Easter Sunday extravaganza. This year, Bunnies on the Bayou will invite a crowd over 1500 guests to join in the festivities. Penny and her co-hosts request that their guests bring non-perishable food items or a generous cash donation to benefit several Houston area charities. The celebration raises thousands annually for the community, and kicks off the charity gala season. Afterwards, everyone will race to the Gay Games T-Dance at Rich's.

Deb-U-Not Ball

Miss Camp America Foundation kicked off the 1994 social season with a very successful DEB-U-NOT BALL with a record number in attendance and charity contributions, Sunday afternoon, March 20, at Rich's.

Five thousand in cash and fifty-six in in-kind donations were collected, all earmarked for this year's selected charities, to be announced by the Foundation in April.

The DEB-U-NOT Ball is the first in a series of fundraising events this year culminating with the 26th Annual Miss Camp America Foundation Pageant on Sept. 17.

Organizers noted that the efforts of Randy Huffman, Marsha Carlton, The "Southern Country" Dancers and other entertainers helped make the event a memorable one.

Over The Hill, Houston attorneys honored at AIDS conference



Ishola Muhammad, left, and "Now and Then" performed song from their new HIV awareness album at conference Awards Dinner

(Continued from Page 1)

The Houston Conference on AIDS in America is devoted to highlighting community strategies that have been developed to provide effective, comprehensive and compassionate care for the AIDS patient, according to the conference's organizers. It is open to the patients and the general public as well as professionals, said Dr. Adan Rios, conference coordinator.

Volberding was also the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award at the conference's Sixth Humanitarian Award dinner, held Friday night.

This year, the organizational Humanitarian Award was presented to Over the

Hill, a non-profit organization that serves ex-offenders, inmates, the indigent and minority populations in Houston and other parts of the state.

Over the Hill, founded in 1979 by Mat-teen Baaith, has since 1987 conducted an outreach and education program in the specific area of HIV and drug abuse, targeted at hard-to-reach, poor minority populations. The organization provides HIV counseling and testing of minorities and IV drug users, a jail rehabilitation program and a juvenile education and outreach program.

A special musical tribute to Over The Hill's efforts was presented at the dinner by young local rappers, "Now and Then," along with Ishola Muhammad, coordinator of Houston's "Boys 2 Men" program for inner city youth. The group performed "HIV: Take it Seriously," from an educational album recorded by the program, "HIV Reality Remix."

Other 1994 award recipients included local attorneys Jon Paul Barnich, Donald Skipwith and Mitchell Katine, who were honored for their legal work on behalf of people with HIV/AIDS.

Pope launches moral crusade in 'year of family'

By VICTOR L. SIMPSON
FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

ROME, Saturday, March 26 (AP) He chatted with moms and dads, encouraged children preparing for their first communion and blessed a baby held up in the crowd of parishioners. Then the pope turned stern.

"I'm not strict, I'm gentle by nature," said Pope John Paul II. "But when it comes to defending principles, I don't bend."

He then went on to condemn homosexual marriage.

The recent parish visit was part of a new crusade against homosexuality, contraception, abortion, euthanasia and other elements of modern society the pope believes have no place in Roman Catholicism.

"No human society can run the risk of permissiveness in fundamental issues regarding the nature of the family," the pope, in the 16th year of his pontificate, wrote in a recent message to Roman Catholic families.

He is considering addressing the U.N. General Assembly in New York in October to give his views worldwide resonance. The United Nations has declared 1994 the International Year of the Family, as has the church.

He has already served notice that the Vatican will battle to block any reference to abortion from the final resolution of a U.N. population conference in September, as it successfully did 10 years ago in Mexico City.

The pope staked out his position in an encyclical last October that declared morality was not a matter of opinion and that certain acts are always evil.

"What the pope is doing is playing out the

implications of that encyclical," said George Weigel, a theologian from the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C. "The challenge presented (by homosexual marriage) cuts right to the heart."

But in a world of scientific advances that have produced the day-after abortion pill and made possible in-vitro births, the pope's words often seem to fall on deaf ears.

In January, he urged Italian Catholic pharmacists to reject selling condoms and other birth control devices. But there are no signs any pharmacy has taken down the racks of multicolored packs of condoms on their counters.

"It's not like abortion, where the law allows doctors to be conscientious objectors," said Giovanni Milozza in his store on the busy Via del Corso. "If someone comes in with a prescription for birth control pills, you have to sell them."

In the case of homosexual marriages, John Paul is trying to head off legislators from recognizing such unions.

In a rare attack on a specific political institution, he assailed a resolution adopted by the European Parliament Feb. 8 that homosexual couples be allowed to marry and adopt children, and urged the 12 parliaments in the European Union to reject it.

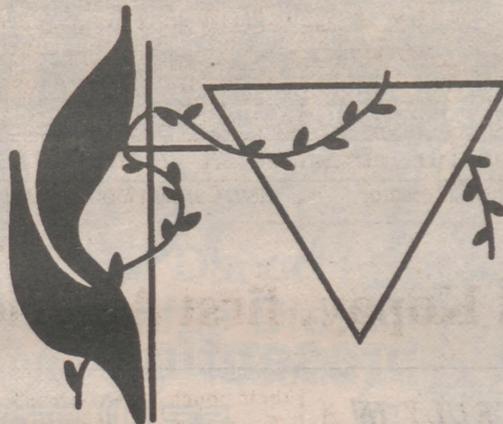
He returned to the subject during his visit to the Church of St. Bernard of Chiaravalle in a lower-class Rome neighborhood, condemning "false and fictitious families composed of two men or two women."

"We respect every man and every woman, but to build a family on that basis is wrong and dangerous," he declared.

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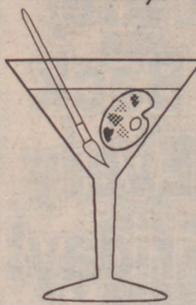
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**Hack lead Slims singles
pack; Martina still on
top in doubles**



Photo by Adrian Faith

Martina Navratilova, right, and Doubles partner Manon Bollegraf at Virginia Slims closing ceremony

SPORTS NOTES

Martina Navratilova tucked another title under her belt in last weekend's wrap-up of the Virginia Slims Houston tournament, keeping our soon-to-retire family favorite at the top rung of women's tennis on the way to Wimbledon.

Navratilova, who went into the tournament as the No. 2 seed, and partner Manon Bollegraf defeated Houstonians Zina Garrison-Jackson and Katrina Adams 6-4, 6-2 in the double final on Saturday, March 26.

Meanwhile, in the singles final, Germany's Sabine Hack, the No. 7 seed, defeated No. 4-seeded Mary Pierce to win the \$400,000 tournament, held at the Westside Tennis Club. Hack, 24, came from behind Pierce's edgy initial lead, winning five consecutive games.

It was not only her first title of the

year, but Hack's biggest win so far. She owns two other titles, both won in Brazil.

Pierce owns four titles. This tournament was her second appearance at Virginia Slims of Houston, after she had to withdraw from the 1993 tournament. Pierce had made her debut appearance at the Virginia Slims Championships in 1993, where she upset two top ten players: Gabriela Sabatini in the first round and Navratilova in the quarterfinals, before losing to Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in the semifinals.

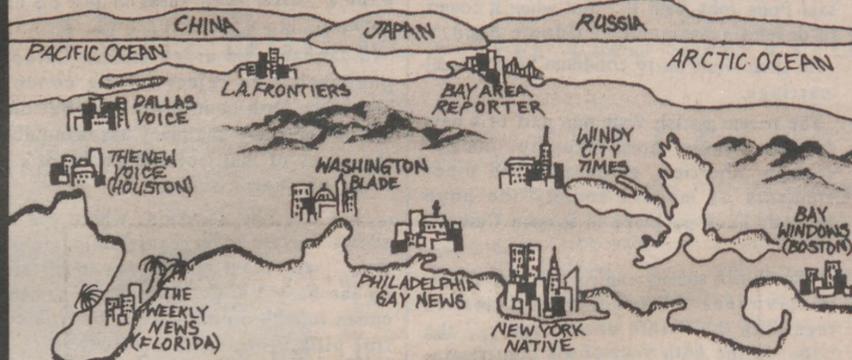
The Virginia Slims of Houston is one of six Virginia Slims tournaments on the WTA Tour, including the season-ending Virginia Slims Championships at New York's Madison Square Garden.



Photo by Adrian Faith

Sabine Hack: surprise victor, in Singles final

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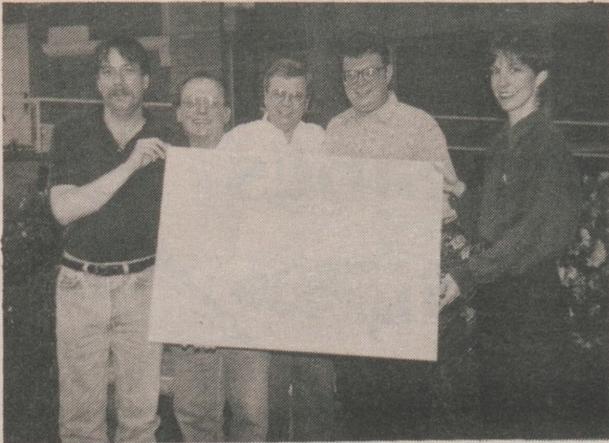
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PLAY SAFE

Body Positive, Maranatha set Spring Picnic April 10; transgender law group announces awards



Bob Meyer, treasurer of Soiree Aubergine, presents symbolic check to Stacie Cokinos, Bering Community Service Foundation development director, as Dan Delaney, Del McGee and Terry Harris look on

Quick Notes

Body Positive Houston and Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Community Church will host a picnic on Sunday, April 10, 1994, from 3:00 -5:00 p.m., at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center located at 1475 W. Gray, Houston, Texas.

The annual gathering will feature games (both ambulatory and sedentary) sponsored by the Maranatha Fellowship M.C.C. with Bar-B-Que and all the trimmings provided by Body Positive/Houston.

This event is underwritten by ONCOL Medical Associates.

Transgender Awards

The International Conference of transgender Law and Employment Policy has announced the recipients of the first "Transgender Pioneer Award" and "Transgender Advocate Award," to be presented during the group's third annual conference. The conference is scheduled to be held in Houston, August 17-21.

The "Transgender Pioneer Award" was created at the ICTLEP directors meeting, held in Silver Spring, Maryland in November. The award honors a transgendered person who openly struggled to effect a positive change in the law as it affects transgendered people. The award, as conceived, could not be presented to any member of the ICTLEP board or staff.

The recipient of is Ms. Cissy G. Conley of Biloxi, Mississippi, an Air Force employee and crossdresser who was reported to her command after being

sighted "en femme" while on TDY in Washington, D.C. Initially, her clearance was suspended, she was investigated and the Air Force was moving administratively to dismiss her from employment, according to Phyllis Randolph Frye, executive director of the law group.

"She openly stood her ground with dignity and pride," said Frye. "Her clearance was reinstated, she was reinstated and awarded bonuses. Her case established that cross-dressing alone is not sufficient basis upon which to base the suspension or denial of a security classification."

The "Transgender Advocate Award," also created at the ICTLEP directors meeting, honors a practicing attorney who has openly struggled to effect a change in the law as it affects transgendered people. As with the other award, the recipient cannot be a director or staff member of ICTLEP. (The recipient of the advocacy award need not be a transgendered person).

The first recipient is Houston attorney Connie Moore. As a trial attorney, Moore and her law firm jumped in near the deadline for filing in the case of a female-to-male transgendered person who had legally married a woman 10 years ago. The woman was seeking to have the marriage annulled and saddle the FTM with all of the community debt, said Frye. In pleadings and in argument before the bench, Moore had a Texas judge rule that the marriage was valid and that divorce was the proper legal remedy.

Moore was also selected on the basis of her work on the Family Law Project report for the two previous ICTLEP conferences. "Her work is the 'hornbook' on family law as it relates to the transgendered," said Frye.

Soiree Raised \$34,600

The host committee of Soiree Aubergine recently presented a check to Bering Community Services Foundation for \$34,600, the final tally of the 1994 benefit's proceeds. This year's event was the biggest money raiser ever, surpassing the \$30,000 goal by almost \$5,000. Soiree's contribution means that food costs for the 19,000 meals served annually by the Bering care Center are now fully funded, committee members said.

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Kermit Cole's documentary 'Living Proof' at Museum of Fine Arts Houston

FILM REVIEW

By **SHERI COHEN DARBONNE**
Houston Voice Editor

Since Kermit Cole's "Living Proof: HIV and the Pursuit of Happiness," to be screened at the Houston Museum of Fine Arts this Friday and Saturday, is indeed one more documentary highlighting the perspective of those who are HIV-positive, it may be easy for to pre-dismiss as "one more director's AIDS film." Viewed without that information, however, that the subject is HIV, the opening of this film might be easily confused with the more recently abundant crop of "Gays Are Your Neighbors" upbeat educational videos.

Set in the studio of photographer Carolyn Jones, whose bright-eyed portraits of individuals living with HIV were ultimately displayed in the World Trade center, Cole's film opens with a collage of electric, energetic images, upbeat music and bite-size commentaries from some of

the 20-odd interviewees followed in the rest of the film. The tone, set deliberately and carried through the 72-minute documentary with relaxing, non-preachy decisiveness, might be summed up in a single word: "Alive." This is not Silverlake Life; "Living Proof" is not about loss or dying, or helplessness. It is not even about legacy. Rather, "Living Proof" is an exploration of how a life-changing challenge (in this case, HIV) impresses on the living the necessity of filling their lives with significant things.



Kermit Cole, director of "Living Proof: HIV and the Pursuit of Happiness," Friday and Saturday at MFA

The film's framing device is a show of Jones' photographs, and she is woven smoothly into the transition between interview clips, snapping and posing the cast members.

The cast includes a swim team who camp it up for the camera, talking about working with each other in the nude; a Hispanic mother and former drug user who earnestly admits her belief that she would probably have died sooner, and in more

desperate straits, had she NOT contracted HIV; an Eagle Scout who relates how he used his experience as a springboard for a personally rewarding project of educat-

ing others in his age group, and so on. The subjects are about evenly matched in gender and sexual orientation, and if they have something in common, it is the fact that testing HIV-positive ultimately led them to adopt a more positive approach to life.

If there is a weakness in Cole's film, it may be that the range of emotions and health challenges of those with HIV is perhaps unrealistically blurred in deference to these "positive," affirming images. But in the sea of largely depressing AIDS films, this might be forgivable. And, the oddly imposed footage of a memorial service for one of the film's more vibrant characters only adds a realistic contrast anxiety for those used to dealing with the emotional hills and valleys forced on our community by this epidemic.

The program is cosponsored by Diverse-Works Artspace. Times are 8:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Friday, April 1, and 7:30 and 9:00 p.m. Saturday, April 2.

Denver police meet with gays, lesbians as part of communitywide recruiting

DENVER, Friday, March 25 (AP) Denver police officials met with gays and lesbians as part of a communitywide drive to attract new recruits to the Denver Police Department's aging ranks.

Before Thursday's meeting, news reports that police were recruiting homosexuals brought scores of calls to the Police Department. Police Chief David Michaud

called a news conference to clarify that police are seeking recruits from all segments of the community not just homosexuals and sexual preference is not a hiring factor.

Police Sgt. Steve Cooper told people attending a recruitment meeting at the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Service Center of Colorado on Thursday that police are holding

similar meetings with more than 100 community groups.

"We're an old police department," with half the force eligible to retire within five years, Cooper said.

Officer Angela Romero warned the 30 people present: "You need to be aware there will be some people who will resist you."

But she said this is changing rapidly, and the Denver Police Department "will be there to support you."

Denver police salaries start at \$27,312, but the city has had to cross state lines in recent years to assemble academy classes resembling the ethnic makeup of the city.

As of March 18, the department had received about 2,807 appli-

cants for a class of 40 to 50 officers to begin in the fall.

Michaud said at the news conference Thursday that he would have no way of knowing whether lesbians or gays take the police test.

"We have no idea what the sexual preference of these applicants is because we do not inquire," he said. "And we don't think it's any of our business."

The fabulous 'Flirtations' still going strong and coming to Houston



Flirting with Houston in April: Jimmy Rutland, Cliff Townsend, Jon Arterton and Aurelio Font, The Flirtations

ENTERTAINMENT FEATURE

For those who haven't yet had the opportunity to view, up close and personal, the group that translated camp to 50's-60's hum-along doo-wop, an especially rewarding chance is coming up. The "fabulous" (slogan) Flirtations, though minus their inimitable founder, the late Michael Callen (who quit touring several months before he died), are still going strong, and now they're coming to Houston, with a benefit performance for local AIDS organizations.

Singing true-to-the-era a capella with unique, personalized and deliciously campy arrangements, the Flirtations have bounded from their street performer roots and the Gay festival circuit to an appearance this month at Carnegie Hall. They even had a cameo in the hit movie "Philadelphia." The group's strength has been measured in different variables by different critics, from OUTWEEK's Gaycentric exalting as "a queer men's a capella group that confronts homophobia, misogyny, AIDS-phobia and queer-bashing in a bold, brash musical manner" to the declaration by The Washington Post that "The Flirtations could singlehandedly make a capella hip and hot again!"

The Assistance Fund and Northern Lights Alternatives/AIDS Mastery Workshop are bringing The Flirtations' glorious voices, their irresistible humor and their joyous pride to the Warwick Grand Ballroom for a benefit concert on Friday, April 15, 1994 at 8:00 p.m.

The Flirts (as they're affectionately known to their fans) began singing on the streets of New York's Greenwich village in 1988. They've been seen and heard on Good Morning America, Donahue, MTV News, Nightwatch, and National Public Radio. What has catapulted them to such places in such a short time even though they're...you know...Gay is that they're musically gifted, hilarious and open and honest about who they are.

As their name suggests, The Flirtations are mostly about fun. They are known for taking doo-wop classics and bending the words to remake the songs. But they've also performed original compositions, incorporating powerful political/social themes.

The group's musical selections are as

varied as the member's multicultural backgrounds. The Flirtations will charm the audience with songs from the fifties, ballads, rock, folk songs, and even salsa! Even people who don't think they like a capella music will find themselves laughing, clapping and doo-wopping along.

"The Flirtations are almost too good! They're hip, witty, and the most extraordinary all-male singing group around, period," said Barry Mandel, board member of Northern Lights Alternatives.

"We are very excited about the concert," added Trey Yates, president of The Assistance Fund's board of directors. "The Flirtations are thrilling, enchanting and a little mischievous! These guys are more of a theater act than a music group. The Flirts have great voices and a grand social consciousness!"

Northern Lights Alternatives/AIDS Mastery Workshop is an innovative emotional support program for people with AIDS and others affect by HIV, including families and health care workers. The workshop provides a unique source of support and compassion and strives to restore dignity and self esteem to enhance the quality of life for people dealing with HIV/AIDS. The purpose of the workshop is to empower people affected by HIV to live fully and powerfully in each moment.

The Assistance Fund was established in 1988 to help alleviate the tremendous financial burden people living with HIV/AIDS encounter. The organization pays medical insurance premiums and emergency prescription drug expenses for people living with HIV/AIDS. Since its inception, The Assistance Fund has served over 700 clients and dispersed almost \$1,000,000 for premium payments. (To perhaps sum up the heart and soul of TAF, its first president, Dennis McNabb remarked, "I know that in some small way we are helping to make sure that people are cared for, treated with dignity, and able to get the best medical care possible. And that is what this organization is all about.")

In addition to the concert, there will be a reception in the Wyndham Warwick's Penthouse Ballroom immediately following The Flirtations' performance. Tickets are \$35 and are available at Randall's Advantix locations or by calling 1-800-6048. For information call (713) 529-4788.

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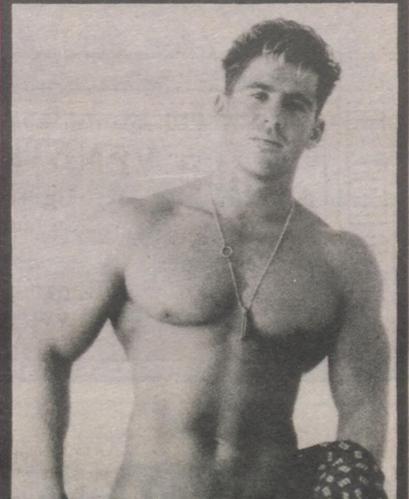
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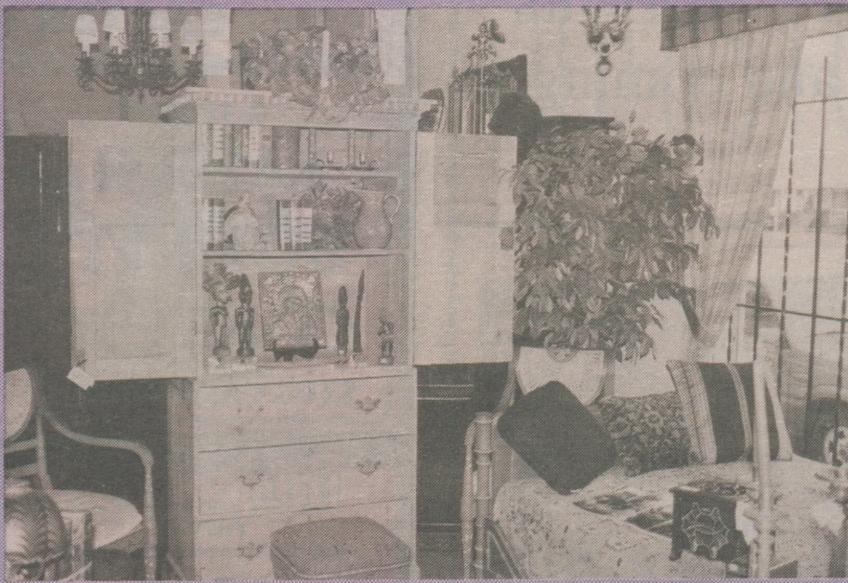
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Special services for Good Friday, Easter at several community churches

QUICK NOTES

Five local churches: Kingdom Community, Community Gospel, Houston Mission, Reconciling Servant and Marantha MCC are uniting to offer a Good Friday service. The service will center around the seven last words of Christ, and each church will be represented by speakers and special music.

Five years ago, the concept of a united service was initiated by Kingdom Community Church. Because of space limitations, the location of the service changed to Community Gospel three years ago. Each year, the service grows with a broader representation of churches in the community, standing

united in giving thanks for what God has given.

This year's service will be held at Community Gospel Church, 501 East 18th (at Columbia) in the Heights. It will be Friday, April 1 at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall directly following the service.

Service of Healing

A Good Friday Service of Healing for persons living with HIV/AIDS will be held at 7:00 p.m. Friday, April 1 in the Chapel of Christ Church Cathedral, 1117 Texas Ave. The Rt. Rev. William E. Sterling, Suffragen Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, will officiate.

The prayers for healing will include the

"laying on of hands" for those desiring personal prayer. Congregational prayer will be offered for the ill, for caregivers, for medical and research efforts, and for departed loved ones.

The Liturgy for Good Friday will include reading of the Passion Gospel and the singing of Passion hymns.

The healing service is offered to members of the community on the first Friday of each month by members of Houston area Episcopal parishes. For information call the Cathedral at 222-2593, or Bill Wicker at 992-2398.

Dawn of Faith

Special services for Holy Week at Dawn of Faith Christian Church will include a

foot washing on Maundy Thursday (March 31), according to Pastor Lois O'Neal. On Good Friday (April 1), there will be "a special memorial service depicting the death of Our Lord Jesus Christ," she said. O'Neal will conduct the Easter Sunday service at 10:15 a.m. Sunday, April 3, bringing the message "Stepping Out of the Tomb."

Regular service times at Dawn of Faith Christian Church, located at 8405-K Alameda-Genoa Road (corner of Monroe), are as follows: Sunday: 10:15 a.m.; Choir practice, 5:30 p.m.; evening worship, 6:30 p.m. Midweek service, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

Washington state high court asked to bar anti-gay rights initiatives

By TIM KLASS
FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

SEATTLE, Thursday, March 24 (AP) A church-led coalition has asked the state Supreme Court to quash two anti-gay rights initiatives on constitutional grounds.

A suit filed Wednesday by the group asked that the secretary of state be barred from placing either Initiative 608 or Initiative 610 on the ballot and that both measures be declared "beyond the scope of the initiative process."

Both are judicial rather than legislative in nature, violate a requirement that an initiative be limited to one subject and are "patently unconstitutional" attempts to restrict the fundamental rights of a group of Washington citizens, the suit said.

The suit was filed by the Washington Association of Churches, representing more than 1700 Roman Catholic and Protestant congregations; American Civil Liberties Union; Privacy Fund; Washington Citizens for Fairness-Hands Off Washington, and state Rep. Cal Anderson, D-Seattle, the lone openly gay member of the Legislature.

Gay rights bills have failed in the Legislature in recent years, and the initiatives would "give gay and lesbian citizens not special but lesser rights compared with other citizens," said the Rev. John Boon-

stra, the association's executive director. "These are punitive actions directed at a particular community and they are clearly subversive of the Constitution."

M. Margaret McKeown, a lawyer who helped prepare the case, told reporters an initial court hearing probably would come by mid-April.

If successful, it would be the first time the state's highest court has blocked an initiative at so early a stage on broad constitutional grounds, McKeown said.

In 1992 an initiative to repeal a gay rights ordinance in Riverside, Calif., east of Los Angeles, was knocked off the ballot by the California Supreme Court on similar grounds, she added.

The suit was denounced by Kathy Mickels of Lynden, a spokesperson for the group sponsoring Initiative 608, the Washington Coalition for Equal Rights not Special Rights.

"This is just another indication of what these left-wing groups will do. They will stop at nothing to keep the citizens of the state of Washington from voting on this issue," Mickels said. "What are they afraid of?"

"I don't think they have a legal leg to stand on," said Sam Woodard of the Citizens Alliance of Washington, the sponsor of Initiative 610. "I'm going to continue gathering

signatures and put it on the ballot in November."

Initiative 610, promoted as the more specific and moderate of the two, would bar state and local government from granting gays minority status, outlaw gay adoptions and marriages and bar public educators from presenting homosexuality as a healthy lifestyle.

Initiative 608 would prevent homosexuals from claiming minority civil rights status and bar schools from presenting homosexuality as an acceptable lifestyle.

Backers must collect about 182,000 valid signatures of registered voters to qualify either measure for the ballot.

The latest action is the second attempt by the church group and Hands Off Washington, a gay rights coalition, to keep the two initiatives off the ballot.

Last month, King County Superior Court judge Marsha Pechman refused to bar the secretary of state from filing ballot titles for the measures.

That case was far more narrowly drawn and required quicker action, McKeown said.

Pechman did say "a very serious challenge had been raised as to the constitutionality of those issues," so opponents feel more confident of success in the Supreme Court action, McKeown said.

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ASK THE PASTOR



Rev. Janet Parker

Q: "Should a Christian be involved in the 'New Age' movement?"

A: I have spent the last several weeks outlining many distinctive thoughts of New Agers. Today I address the final thought. In summary, the six thoughts are: 1. All is One; 2. All is God; 3. Humanity is God; 4. A Change in Consciousness; 5. All religions are one; and 6. **COSMIC EVOLUTIONARY OPTIMISM.**

Let me lay a little ground work on the idea of "Cosmic Evolutionary Optimism. To quote Julian Huxley, an avowed secular humanist and defender of rational science as the interpreter of all life, is to lay the groundwork for the New Age. He said, "Man is that part of reality in which and through which the cosmic process has become conscious and has begun to comprehend itself. His (humanity's) supreme task is to increase that conscious comprehension and to apply it as fully as possible to the course of events."

Barbara Marx Hubbard, a futurist, says, "We must embrace a 'spiritual futurism' which incorporates all the strength of 'evolutionary futurism' (hope for radical evolutionary change), With millions now 'actively praying, listening to inner intuition, expanding their awareness toward whole-centered consciousness,' we see that evolution itself is 'a consciousness-raising experience.' We may even expect a new suprahuman species which will be 'as superior to present day humanity as we are to the apes.'"

Hubbard explains what she means by "spiritual futurism": "At this moment of our planetary birth each person is called upon to recognize that the 'Messiah is within.' Christ consciousness or cosmic consciousness is awakening in millions of Christians and non-Christians." In Hubbard's book, *The Evolutionary Journey*, she states that the "messiah within" will lead all of us forward into a glorious future.

Christians can be both more optimistic and more pessimistic about the future than is the New Age. The Bible views history as moving according to the sovereign will of the Creator and Governor of the universe "who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of God's will" (Ephesians 1:11). Hope for the future does not lie in realizing the potential of collective humanity but in the promises of God. God promises to bless nations that obey God and curse nations that disobey God (Deuteronomy 8:28; Jeremiah 18:5-10). The culmination of history will not be a great planetary consciousness but the return of Jesus Christ to separate the sheep from the goats for all eternity. For some the future will be much better than we could ever imagine—for others, much worse.

Should Christians be involved in New Age? New Age does not appear to uphold and build upon the Word of God which is Truth.

My suggestion in becoming "involved" is to pray about sharing the message of salvation with people who are entangled with New Age thinking. Your prayers, your support and your love may help them to see the Truth in Jesus Christ who can set them free.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS AND WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THEM ADDRESSED BY REV. JANET PARKER, PLEASE WRITE TO: MARANATHA FELLOWSHIP MCC, P.O. BOX 667032, HOUSTON, TX 77266-7032

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'Crossroads' group to discuss ministry; north Houston church's AIDS care team seeks volunteers

QUICK NOTES

"Ministry: Opportunities and Pitfalls" will be the topic of discussion at the next meeting of "Crossroads," Thursday, April 7 at the new time, 6:30 p.m.

Crossroads, a support group for Gays and Lesbians who are currently in full time church work or who have been in the past, will continue to meet the first Thursday of every month at Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection, 1919 Decatur, until a more neutral location can be found. The group is for pastors as well as music, youth, and educational directors, chaplains, counselors and administrators. One need not be licensed, ordained, or deputed to attend.

According to the founder, Rev. Johnny Peden, a former Southern Baptist minister who is now at MCCR, the purpose of the group is to help others find meaning and purpose in their lives regarding their call to ministry, regardless of their sexual orientation. For many, this means finding acceptance after being rejected by their former denominations for merely being who they truly are. Also working with the group is Rev. Ralph Lasher, a former Episcopal priest. Both Peden and Lasher emphasize the purpose of Crossroads is not to bring people into the ministry of MCC churches. "If a person is comfortable where they are, that is where they need to be. We want to be there to offer understanding and unconditional love," according to Peden. Reverends Peden and Lasher can be reached at (713) 861-9149.

Team Needs Volunteers

Creative Life Church at 5326 Spring Stuebner (the polling location for the 452nd precinct; sponsors the AIDS Care Team which is under the auspices of the Foundation for Inter-Faith Research and Ministry (FIRM).

FIRM provides orientations for the new volunteers and makes the initial contact on each patient proposed to the care team. FIRM is also currently branching out by creating care teams for patients with terminal cancer and Alzheimer's disease. If you know of a patient who would like to submit an application for care, call FIRM at (713) 682-5995.

Many times while a primary care-giver is working, the patient is left alone for hours. Volunteers provide relief to primary care givers by delivering meals, providing transportation to and from medical appointments, running errands such as shopping, or simply providing a free service for which they would normally charge a fee. Services could include lawn mowing, cooking, cleaning, message therapy, pet care, etc. Volunteers also go in pairs to visit AIDS patients who have need of caring people to simply talk to them and check up on them occasionally.

Due to the misunderstanding many people have about AIDS, these patients often lose their jobs, friends, and even family. Any extra time you have could be used to help, even if it is just making regular phone calls to clients who need someone to talk to and who they know is there for support.

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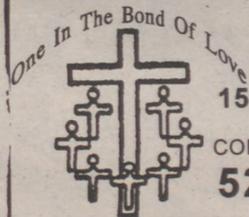
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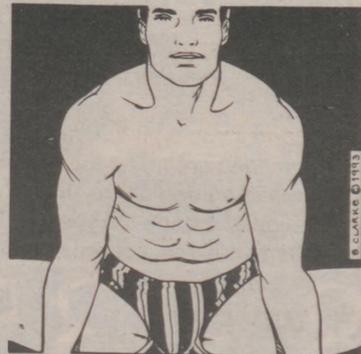
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47 AIDS demonstrators arrested on Brooklyn Bridge

NEW YORK, Tuesday, March 22 (AP) Forty-seven AIDS activists were arrested Tuesday evening during a march across the Brooklyn Bridge to protest what organizers said were plans by Mayor Rudolph Giuliani to cut funding for people with AIDS.

Jay Blotcher, a spokesperson for ACT UP, the AIDS advocacy group that organized the march, said most of the arrests took place near Brooklyn when police directed the crowd to walk across on the walkway, and not in the street as the group originally planned.

"I believe they sat down when cops tried to turn them around," he said.

Officer Andrew McInnis, a police spokesperson, said he did not know why the arrests were made.

Several hundred demonstrators marched around City Hall after crossing the bridge. They chanted "money for AIDS, not for cops," and carried signs that included: "Rudy to New Yorkers with AIDS: Drop Dead."

Police ringed City Hall during the demonstration.

Police estimated that between 1000 and 1200 demonstrators crossed the bridge.

Earlier Tuesday, 10 AIDS protesters chained themselves to City Hall.

Four fastened themselves to a door and the rest handcuffed themselves around two pillars on the porch.

Police arrested them after they refused to leave.

AIDS activists say they are angered

that the mayor is considering eliminating or making deep cuts in the city's Division of AIDS Services.

Giuliani has maintained that closing a \$2.4 billion gap in the budget for the next fiscal year will mean nearly everyone will have to endure some pain.

On Monday, Giuliani announced the city received a \$100 million grant from the federal government under the Ryan White Care Act to fight AIDS.

Ryan White funds are distributed to about 250 community-based organizations. They must under the law be used to provide emergency health and social services to people with HIV and AIDS.

Giuliani said the \$100 million was more than double the amount the city received last year.

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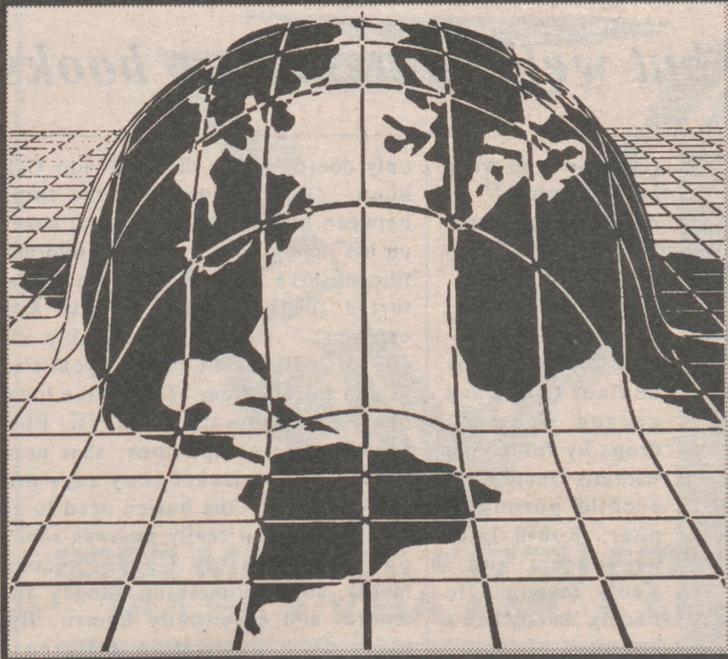
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HOUSTON VOICE

Mexican granted U.S. asylum based on persecution of gays

SAN FRANCISCO, Friday, March 25 (AP)A gay man granted asylum in the U.S. after claiming he was harassed and raped by police in his native Mexico says the action saved his life.

The man, who identified himself with the pseudonym Jose Garcia, told a news conference Thursday that he hoped the Immigration and Naturalization Service decision sent a signal to all homosexuals "that there are countries in the world which respect the human rights of all citizens."

Garcia, who said he was in his 30s and had been in the United States illegally for about a decade, won the right to stay permanently on March 18. That right "saved my life," he said.

"As a gay man in Mexico, life was made intolerable for me," he said at a news conference. "I had no one to turn to. When I learned that being gay in the United States was not only tolerated but even accepted in some areas, I had only one desire: to flee Mexico for some kind of freedom in the United States."

Garcia said he had established a "well-founded fear of persecution" in Mexico because of his membership in a particular "social group."

The decision was the first time that the INS has granted asylum based on a claim of persecution involving sexual orientation, said Ronald Silberstein, Garcia's attorney.

The INS had not previously concluded that homosexuals were a "social group," a category protected by asylum laws if fear of persecution is established, Silberstein said. He said the decision, though not legally binding on other INS officers, should establish a precedent for similar cases elsewhere.

"We hope that this decision is a wake-up call to governments all over the world that the persecution on account of someone's sexual orientation is unacceptable," Silberstein said.

INS spokesperson Duke Austin confirmed that the decision had been reviewed at INS headquarters in Washington before it was issued.

The decision sets no precedent and does not mean that all gays from Mexico are eligible for asylum, Austin said. But he said it was a logical conclusion that "if a gay who's being persecuted in Mexico can get (asylum) on that grounds, then a gay who's being persecuted in any other country can

get it on that grounds."

Last July an immigration judge in San Francisco granted asylum to a Brazilian homosexual, a decision the INS is appealing. The Board of Immigration Appeals in 1990 barred deportation of a Cuban homosexual.

Silberstein said Garcia's case was different because the INS did not oppose asylum, but instead "recognized that sexual orientation is clearly a social group." He said another distinction was that Garcia was not under a deportation order, but instead walked into an INS office and applied for asylum.

Garcia, from Coahuila, Mexico, said he knew he was gay at an early age. He said cultural prejudice against homosexuals affected his family, quoting a grandmother as once telling him, "It would have been nice if you had been born a man."

As he grew up, he said, police arrested him for walking in certain neighborhoods, patronizing certain bars and attending certain parties, falsely accused him of crimes and extorted money from him.

Once when he was a teen-ager, he said, he and a friend were driving and were stopped by police, who told the friend to go home and get some money if he ever wanted to see Garcia again. While the friend was gone, he said, one of the officers raped him.

He said he spent an entire night crawling across the border at Calexico. After staying in Chicago and Miami, he said, he wound up in San Francisco, where he has worked as a volunteer and a paid employee in gay-rights and anti-AIDS activities.

Despite those public activities, he declined to give his real name or allow photographs. "You don't know where the future will lead," he said.

Besides Garcia's experiences, the INS was also given evidence of the involvement of police and military authorities in the assassinations of homosexuals and doctors working against AIDS in certain parts of Mexico, Silberstein said.

An advocacy group, the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, said about 25 gay men and transvestites were killed in Chiapas between June 1991 and Feb. 1993 and that a Mexican government report had found irregularities in the local investigation of the killings.

'Scotch Verdict' by Lillian Faderman renews story of 1810 court case

BOOK REVIEWS

By JUDITH MEYER

If you've thrown up your hands on solving the mystery of nature versus nurture, there's another real-life mystery you might try to solve. Columbia University has reissued Lillian Faderman's "Scotch Verdict." First published in 1983, the book tells the story of the 1810 lawsuit styled Miss Jane Pirie and Miss Marianne Woods against Dame Helen Cumming Gordon. Pirie and Woods ran a boarding school for young girls in Edinburg, Scotland. Suddenly, within a week, all of their students were removed by their families. The two women found that Jane Cumming, the illegitimate, half-Indian granddaughter of Lady Helen Cumming Gordon, had told her grandmother that the two school mistresses were having an affair. Cumming Gordon advised friends to whom she had recommended the school that she was removing her granddaughter, and confidently told several mothers her reason. Pirie and Woods, their livelihood ruined, sued Lady Cumming Gordon for libel. If these facts sound familiar it's because they provided the basis for Lillian Hellman's play "The Children's Hour." But the 150-year old facts Faderman presents, ambiguous and inconclusive as they are, are far more compelling than the neat and moralistic ending stitched by Hellman 60 years ago.

There is no doubt that Jane Pirie and Marianne Woods loved each other. Passionate friendships between women were accepted at the time, even to the point of sharing a bed. Faderman, the author of "Surpassing the Love of Men: Romantic Friendship and Love Between Women from the Renaissance to the Present," neatly puts such passion into historical perspective in this book. Dame Cumming Gordon's own counsel asked the schoolgirls if they had seen their mistresses "kissing, caressing and fondling more than could have resulted from ordinary female relationship?" And Lord Gilies, one of the judges, asked rhetorically: "Are we to say that every woman who has formed an intimate

friendship and has slept in the same bed with another is guilty? Where is the innocent woman in Scotland?"

Also unquestioned in 1810 was the fact that Pirie and Woods each shared a bed with a student in one of the two dormitory rooms. What crossed the line in 1810 was that, according to some of the students, Pirie and Woods visited each other's bed at night. The girls testified variously to their states of dress or undress, to feeling the bed shake, and hearing a sound "like putting one's finger into the neck of a wet bottle" and whispered comments such as "You are in the wrong place" and "Do it, darling."

The reactions of the "white guys in ties" of the day, the venerable judges hearing the case, are both amusing and maddening. Lord Meadowbank, who heard the case preliminarily, noted that the two schoolmistresses were "of ordinary conformation" since their "private parts were not formed to penetrate each other, and without penetration the venerable orgasm could not possibly follow," the crime imputed to the two was "impossible in this country to commit." But Meadowbank punted the case to the full court. Faderman gives a brief portrait of each of the judges, and reproduces their notes on the day's testimony. Of particular interest is Lord Robertson. He evaluates the credibility of the female witnesses, most of whom were teenage girls, through their appearance and attractiveness: "A prissy bit of feline flesh...She will grow into a fat, bland matron in no more than fifteen years. Now one wants to pinch her from behind or shake her ferociously or nip her on the cheek..." Faderman advises that at this time, it was not unusual for judges to drink while on the bench. Nor were they required to attend any of the testimony given before rendering an opinion. But most of the judges worked hard to make sense of the evidence. The problem is that for each logical argument in favor of the schoolmistresses on any given point of evidence, there is a logical counter argument in favor of their accusers. (Continued on following page)

Case still intrigues; Cooper's 'Try' grim but well-written; new books

(Continued from preceding page)

That is the fascination of the case, as well as the problem: someone, either respectable women or well-raised young ladies, is lying: someone is either innocent, or a monster. For the judges hearing the case in 1810, all of their assumptions about female sexuality are questioned. The easy resolution might be class: their chief accuser, Lady Cumming Gordon's granddaughter, was born in India, the illegitimate child of her eldest son, who soon after died, and an Indian woman. Who knows what the girl may have seen or learned in the sexually-free East before being brought to Scotland by her grandmother? But the dark-skinned girl was, after all, the granddaughter of Lady Helen Cumming Gordon. And what about the daughters of fine families raised in Scotland, who corroborated the Cumming girl's story? As Faderman points out, there was no way the judges' beliefs about female innocence could emerge unscathed, no hope that their sacred prejudices about class and race could not be violated.

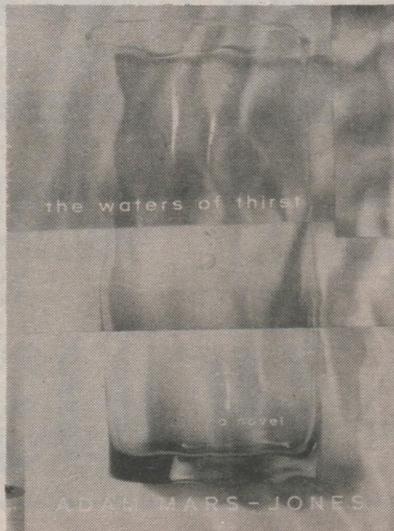
Faderman abstracted over 1000 pages of trial transcript to provide a smooth narrative of a fascinating drama. The facts are framed by a present day perspective, the fictionalized reactions of the author and her lover to the facts as they uncover them on a summer's research sabbatical in Edinburgh. The "Did they or didn't they?" argument between the two women underscores the difference in

perspective 150 years can make, and at the same time proves the elusiveness of the truth. The assumption about gender, race, class and sexuality made by the witnesses and judges in the case in 1810 are clear to us in 1994, but our resolution of the facts now, which side of the argument we take on the "Did they or didn't they?" question, can only be based on the same

assumptions in modern clothes. The facts could not be more inconclusive if they had been designed as a conundrum to tease and reveal our bias, passion and prejudice. The problem is the same in 1994 as it was in 1810: Can we be guided to the truth by our prejudices?

"Try"

Dennis Cooper's "Try," a grim, well-written story, follows Ziggy, the adopted son of two Gay men who broke up shortly after his adoption. Brice, the custodial father, has raped and beaten Ziggy at whim since he was eight years old. Now a teenager, Ziggy has renewed contact with his other father, Roger, who has a fondness for young boy's asses and cajoles Ziggy into an affair. Ziggy's



Among new titles: "The Waters of Thirst," Adam Mars-Jones

response is to work on his "zine," "I Apologize, A Magazine for the Sexually Abused." Ziggy interviews Robin for his magazine, the young boy he finds bound and gagged when he drops by for a visit with his Uncle Ken, a child pornographer. Robin later overdoses, and Ken's response to finding "a boy like a big piece of chalk" is to call someone he

knows who's into necrophilia. Then he buries Robin in the backyard. Meanwhile, Ziggy deals with his crush on Calhoun, a straight heroin addict who passively accepts Ziggy's love.

Cooper's taut prose brings stream of consciousness to a new height. All the mental hiccups and wanderings of internal voices are here, down to the "tick, tick, tick" of time passing and the "blink, blink, blink" of zoning out. The trembling, fragile emotions of his teenagers are achingly real. Ziggy does everything in his power to avoid "the emotion bomb" that often goes off when he has an orgasm. Calhoun reaches peace through heroin, which blankets some "inventive emotions" far at the back of consciousness. They're trying to figure out what love might be in a world where

only coercion fills the void. For Calhoun, "love is just how the thing between him and heroin reads, based on his limited info." And the information on love is truly limited and distorted in their world. Uncle Ken explains: "...love?...You pick a kid out of zillions of them...you risk prison to fuck him...That's like love, okay. But Robin means LOVE. Boyfriends, life companions, that nonsense." Book jacket copy says this story is about "the buried need to go all the way and really possess someone" (presumably Cooper's comment), about something hungry and amoral and essentially human. But there is a qualitative difference between the world of the adults and that of the "conventionally fucked up" teenagers. In the end, Ziggy and Calhoun simply find a hole in time in space, as they fall asleep in Calhoun's bed. "Tick, tick, tick...Fuck everything else."

Book List

New: "Stranger at the Gate: To Be Gay and Christian in America," by Mel White; "The Waters of Thirst," by Adam Mars-Jones; "House Rules," by Heather Lewis; "Kathleen O'Donald," by Penny Hayes; "Staying Home," by Elizabeth Nonas; "Smokey O," by Celia Cohen; "Is the Homosexual My Neighbor?: A positive Christian response" (revised & updated), Letha Dawson Scanzoni and Virginia Ramey Mollen Kott; "Heterosexuality," William H. Masters, Virginia E. Johnson and Robert C. Kolodny.

House approves measure on teaching about homosexuality

WASHINGTON, Friday, March 25 (AP) Amid a bitter personal debate between two congressmen, the House approved a Missouri lawmaker's amendment denying federal funds to school districts that teach children about homosexuality.

Rep. Mel Hancock, a Republican from Springfield, sought to bar public funds to school districts with activities and programs for stu-

dents that support homosexuality as a positive lifestyle.

The House, by a vote of 224-194, amended the Hancock proposal Thursday to limit its application to federal, but not local, funds and to state that nothing in it would interfere with the rights of local communities to pick curriculum.

The revised amendment passed, 301-120.

Hancock's proposal was an amend-

ment to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the \$12.4 billion education bill. The House later approved the bill 289-128.

During the debate on the Hancock amendment, Rep. Robert Dornan personally attacked a Republican colleague who opposed the measure.

"He has a revolving door on his closet," Dornan said of Rep. Steve Gunderson, R-Wis., who opposed

the amendment.

"He's in, he's out, he's in, he's out, he's in. I guess you're out because you went up and spoke to a huge homosexual dinner, Mr. Gunderson," said the California Republican.

Dornan said he was quoting his wife.

"I think this conversation is out of order," said Rep. William Ford, D-Mich. He urged that Dornan be silenced. After first refusing, Dornan relented and agreed to withdraw

his comments.

Afterward, Gunderson's spokesperson, Kevin Kennedy, said, "It's one of those things that isn't dignified with an answer. Our interest is in the bill itself."

"If you adopt the Hancock amendment by itself, it has the effect of prohibiting school counseling and guidance," Gunderson said. "It has the effect of prohibiting AIDS education."



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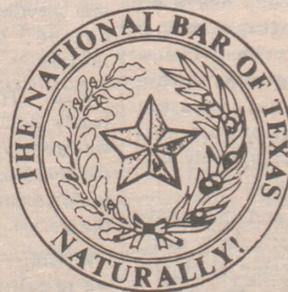
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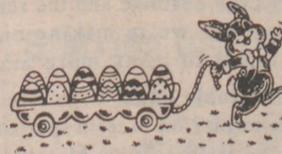
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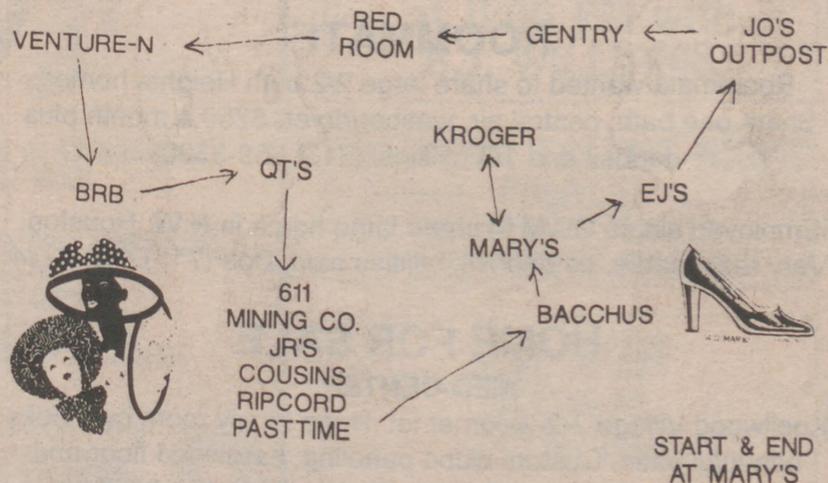


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New national report explains inquiring minds; cross country candidate?

NATIONAL NEWS NOT'S

A new publication released this week by the National Gay and Lesbian Organization is intended to promote better communication between and among grass roots organizers and activists, other Gay and Lesbian leaders, the media and politicians.

Tom Daugherty, assistant to the director of the organizing publicity coordinator of NGLO, said the leaflet, "What They Say (And What They Really Mean)" could be a breakthrough in helping various interests within the community avoid misunderstandings, and provide the answer to that burning question, "Can't We All Just get Along?"

"Often, disagreements arise simply because different groups

aren't sensitive to each other's method of communication," said Daugherty. "We have found that even though most Gay Americans speak the same language...well at least, just about everybody I know does...different groups within the community use different codes and groupings of words that mean something completely different to someone else."

Street activists and the media seem to have a particularly difficult time deciphering sophisticated conversation, he said.

The pamphlet groups common quotations, and lists their definitions when directed by one group to another. Some may be directed at more than one group with the same translation, others are specifically from one group to another. Some examples follow:

WTS: "I think I heard something

about them being here, but I don't know any specifics..."

WTRM: "We're having an important meeting and you may be discussed, but you won't be invited."

WTS: "Tonight's meeting is basically just business. Tomorrow we are having a special reception for the (community) (press), and we'll be announcing all the details then."

WTRM: "If you show up tonight, we're calling the police to throw you out."

WTS: "Well, there you are! Do come in!"

WTRM: "We knew you'd show up anyway, so we called 'em already."

WTS: "Before I go to press with this, I wanted to give you a chance to respond."

WTRM: My tired old ethics require that I get both sides of the story, even if it means I talking to slimeballs like you."

WTS: "I understand your pain."

WTRM: "My campaign staff spent hours last night explaining it to me."

WTS/WTRM is available directly from the GLHO's office of mailing and processing at \$10.00 per copy (organizational mass discount available).

In other news from NGLO, Mark Downs, announcement director, announced that regrettably, due to a budget shortfall this year, the organization's AIDS Lobbying Project will be discontinued after next month.

"We have so many worthy projects right now that it was difficult to choose on to ax, but we had to make a decision," Downs

explained. "We decided on ALP because it's one of the older departments, and lately it seems like everybody's just sick to death of AIDS."

Candidate Confusion

A petition circulating nationally demands that Howard Stern, announced Independent candidate for Governor and New York, and Leslie Perez, candidate in a runoff for Harris County (Texas) Party Chair, be disqualified from their races on the basis that they are actually the same person.

The petition's author, said to be a high-ranking official in the Texas Democratic Party, defended the charge against cries of frivolous actions and harassment by declaring, "Have you ever seen them in the same room together?" and "Besides, what if she wins?"

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April skating, bowling standings, extended Gay Games registration

SPORTS NOTES

The Lambda Rollerskating Club will hold its next Skate Night on Tuesday, April 5, 7:30-10:30 p.m. at Hobby Skate World, 6804 Easthaven. Admission is \$5, including skates and raffle ticket.

An Outdoor Skate is planned for April 10, 1:00 p.m., weather permitting, at Memorial Park (100 Picnic Lane). Look for the club banner, skates may be rented from local skate shops.

For more information on these activities or the Lambda Rollerskating Club, call Keith, (713) 933-5818 or Ray, (713) 862-4875.

Bowling Standings

Following are the standings in the Houston Gay bowling leagues:

Final Standings for Monday Nite Women's League: (1st) Maybe, Maybe Not; (2nd) 3 Al's and a Pussycat; (3rd) Can't Bowl Straight; and (4th) Not Your Husbands.

The Summer League begins April 18 at 5:30 at Fairlanes Southway. For information, call Pat DeCarlo at 437-6218.

Houston Thursday Night Mixers: (1st) Luci's Loosies; (2nd) Tops and Bottoms; (3rd) Members Only Not. Men's High Scratch Game, 247, Chris Bennett, Men's High Scratch Series, 640, Chris Bennett. Women's high Scratch Game, 202, Terry Shannon; Women's High Scratch Series, 542, Terry Shannon.

Summer League begins at Emerald Lanes on Boone Road on April 14. For more information call Mace Adams, 432-7239.

The second week of playoffs in the Montrose Monday Nite Men's League resulted in the following positions: (1st) B & W; (2nd) Leave It...It's beaver; (3rd) Miss Marks Alot; (4th) You Just go Girl! First place in the Roll-offs is currently held by Tits On a Boar.

Summer League begins at Fairlanes Southway, April 18. For information call Gardy Harvey, 641-5424.

Inner Loop Alternative League summer play begins Sunday, April 10 at 7:00 p.m., with an organizational

meeting at preceding at 6:00 p.m., at Palace Lanes on Bellaire Blvd. For information, call Tom at 522-9612.

Gay Games Registration

The organizers of Gay Games IV & Cultural Festival have announced that the deadline for athlete registration has been extended from March 31 to April 18 in sports with available space. In addition, the \$50 late registration fee has been waived.

Gay Games IV & Cultural Festival, to be held June 18-25, 1994, is an Olympic-style sporting and cultural event open to all. At this point organizers are expecting more athletes to participate in the Gay Games than participated in the 1992 Summer Olympics. Gay Games IV competition will be held in 31 team and individual sports in venues located throughout the New York City Metro area.

Due to an overwhelming response in registrations, several sports have already reached or approached capacity. Tennis, which is being contested at the United States Tennis Association's National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows, site of the U.S. Open, was the first sport to hit capacity, with over 600 registrants. Swimming, volleyball, squash, martial arts and badminton are very close to maximum participation numbers, but are still accepting athletes.

As of March 17, nearly 8500 participants have signed up for athletic events. Registrations have come in from 31 countries including the Czech Republic, Ghana, Malaysia and Peru.

"Our registration numbers have been fantastic so far," noted Roz Quarto, Director of Operations at Gay Games IV. "But with the extension of the deadline and the removal of the late fee we're making our event accessible to many more athletes."

Individuals have difficulty finding teams to play on in team sports can contact the Games Team Matching Coordinator Jane Coban at (212) 877-3941. Already, softball players from New Zealand have been hooked up with New York athletes on the New York Internationals squad.

For more information on registering for Gay Games IV call (212) 633-9494.

Mormon Church fires first salvo in looming war: same-sex marriages

By MIKE CARTER
FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

SALT LAKE CITY, Friday, March 25 (AP) In the mid-1970s, the Mormon Church launched an unprecedented campaign against the Equal Rights Amendment, saying its passage would promote lesbianism and degrade the American family.

Two decades later, the church is gearing up to fight another perceived threat to home and hearth: same-sex marriages.

A concerted Mormon anti-ERA campaign raged in several states and some believe the church tipped the scales for the amendment's failure. Proponents complained bitterly about what they saw as the church's intrusion into the secular, political arena.

Like an echo from the past, the charges resonate today.

In February, the church's ruling First Presidency issued a rare call to arms to members, urging them to oppose legalization of same-gender marriage and encouraging them to "appeal to legislators, judges and other officials to preserve the purposes and sanctity of marriage between and man and a woman."

Church leaders contend they are apolitical and speak out only on public issues they consider also to be moral issues.

"The church can teach whatever doctrine it feels appropriate," said Marty Baudet, a San Francisco gay activist and the national executive director of Affirmation, a gay Mormon support group.

"But I don't accept the premise they can deny the citizens at large, people

who don't subscribe to Mormon doctrine, the right to be recognized equally under the law," he said.

As bothersome to Baudet and others is the appearance, at least, that church headquarters is orchestrating the fight. In Hawaii, where a recent court ruling could validate gay marriages, flyers instructing church members to support legislation to counteract the ruling and telling them how to get involved in the political process have been made available at church meetings.

Hawaiian church officials say the effort is local.

"We never expressed to our members that we require this," said Donald Hallstrom, the church's regional representative and spokesperson in Hawaii. "There was no coercion, in any way, shape or form."

The flyers contain no references to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Some list a telephone number for the "Hawaii Public Affairs Council," which rang to the church's public affairs missionaries.

Hallstrom said the flyers were intended for church members only.

William E. Woods, a spokesperson for the Honolulu-based Gay and Lesbian Education and Advocacy Foundation, said several statements faxed to a Senate subcommittee came from machines at the church-owned Polynesian Cultural Center and the campus of Brigham Young University-Hawaii.

"I am absolutely, personally and clearly aware that the church and its business organizations are actively developing testimony" on the issue, Woods said.

Church spokesperson Don LeFevre said that other than the February statement, church leaders have not involved themselves. LeFevre also said no church general authority was available for an interview on the issue.

There are those, however, who believe that if church leaders are not conducting the campaign now, they will be. Historian D. Michael Quinn said the tactics closely resemble those used in the early days of the fight against the ERA.

"I see this as a replaying of the anti-ERA campaign of the late '70s and early '80s," said Quinn, who last week presented a paper entitled "The LDS Church's Campaign Against The Equal Rights Amendment" at the Sunstone Symposium in Washington, D.C. "The tactics, although we're starting very early, mirror the kinds of tactics used then."

Church claims that the Hawaii effort is isolated raise questions when taken in context with a flyer Quinn said was passed out earlier this month to members of the Montgomery Village LDS Ward in Gaithersburg, Md.

Similar in wording, it urges members to action against proposed ordinances that, among other things, add sexual orientation to Maryland anti-discrimination laws.

Like the February message from the First Presidency warning of same-gender marriages, the church in 1976 issued a formal statement opposing ratification of the ERA, warning it may "stifle many God-given feminine instincts" and take away, rather than add to, women's rights.

Not long afterwards, members of the church's Council of the Twelve Apos-

ties began publicly speaking out against the ERA. They also instructed Mormon women to get involved in the International Women's Year conferences in 1977. Feminist and pro-ERA platforms in Utah, Hawaii, Montana and some other states subsequently were defeated.

There are some notable differences between the way the ERA was handled by the church and its task in opposing same-gender marriages the most prominent being the battleground.

Where the ERA was fought domestically, the same-sex marriage issue will be fought globally. The week before the church issued its statement in February, the European Parliament approved a non-binding resolution urging members of the European Community to allow gay couples to adopt children.

Affirmation's Baudet believes the church is fighting a political riptide, much as it did when black males were forbidden ordination to the faith's priesthood.

Baudet said the church repeated that struggle in the 1970s with feminism.

"It didn't have to worry back then because society treated blacks and women the same way," he said. "But those two groups put pressure on the church and things changed."

In 1978, the church announced a revelation that "worthy men of all races" could receive the priesthood.

"I predict society will acknowledge gay rights and, 20 years down the road, the church will find itself out of step once again and trying not to look bad," he said.

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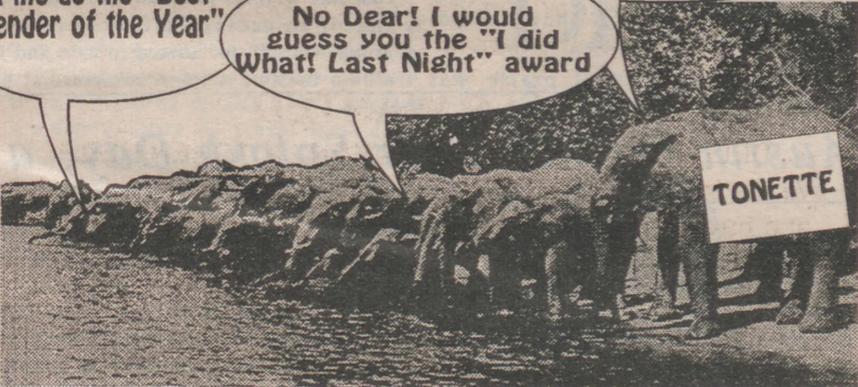
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THUR

'The Who's Tommy' opens at Jones Hall; cast also doing AIDS benefit show

HOUSTON LIVE

By JAVIER TAMEZ

Houston Voice/Houston

The New York Times: "...the real rock musical Broadway has so long pined for...the stunning surprise that has brought this Broadway season to life."

Time Magazine: "The whole production hurtles forth with visual and emotional clout worthy of the score."

Newsweek Magazine: "The audience greets this show with ecstatic cheers."

These accolades are but a tiny sampling of an avalanche of praise. Seldom has a Broadway musical been greeted with such universal critical and popular acclaim. But that is exactly the type of reception that has befallen "The Who's Tommy."

The rock musical sensation, opens Wednesday, April 6 and plays through Monday, April 11, in Jones Hall as part of the 1993-94 NationsBank Houston Broadway Series.

Additionally, the Tommy company will be doing an AIDS benefit show on Sunday, April 10, at 11:00 p.m., at Rockefeller's. The benefit will feature many members of the cast and musicians, and will also include an auction of items from the production, including an official Tommy tour jacket.

The proceeds of the benefit will be divided between AIDS Foundation Houston and Equity Fights AIDS/Broadway Cares.

The eagerly-awaited touring production is a powerful and thrilling piece of musical theater and was one of the toasts of the 1993 Broadway season, winning five Tony awards (Score, Director, Choreography, Scenic Design and Lighting); six Drama Desk Awards (Director, Orchestrations, Choreography, Set Design, Lighting Design and Sound Design), three Outer Critics' Circle Awards (Musical, Direction, Design) and a 1994 Grammy Award for Best Musical Show Recording.

The storm of critical praise was



(L-R) Anthony Galde, Roger Bart and Clarke Thorell in a scene from "The Who's Tommy"

matched by record breaking sales. "Tommy" shattered the day-after-opening ticket sales record (previously held by "Guys and Dolls") with \$497,897.50 worth of tickets. Also, "Tommy" broke the all-time Broadway box office record, the day after winning five Tony awards, racking up over \$500,000 in tickets.

Hurling onto the stage with dramatically streaming lights, set soaring through the air, breathtaking projections, robotic instruments and dozens of video screens, "The Who's Tommy" is one of the most technically sophisticated productions in Broadway history. "Tommy" comes alive on stage through Pete Townshend's timeless rock music, with such mega-hits as "Amazing Journey," "See Me, Feel Me," "We're Not Going to Take It," "Sensation" and "Pinball Wizard."

Though the story of the deaf, dumb and blind boy's transformation into a messiah-like pinball pro had holes in it the size of an ocean, the fans of the rock group were all too stoned to care and the album became a huge commercial hit.

As such, there was immediate recognition that this would be ideal for wide interpretation. With its rocking rhythm and evocative, though desperately vague, story, it was only a matter of time before the music was reinterpreted. Before long it was presented in orchestral, synthesizer and brass versions, in unauthorized theatrical productions, and even as a ballet. The most famous rendition was the 1974 Ken Russell film which featured The Who, Elton John and Tina Turner among other.

Unlike the film adaptation of the music, which worked in fantasy, the current stage production works in the dramatic. The creative forces, composer, lyricist and co-librettist Pete Townshend, director and co-librettist Des McAnuff and choreographer Wayne Cilento, went right back to the album. Since, however, a comparison to the movie is inevitable suffice it to say that while the musical is not a rated-G version (many in the audience may squirm at the visual suggestion of Uncle Ernie molesting Tommy), McAn-

uff and Townshend did make many choices to limit the on stage violence suggested by the songs.

The compelling story is told visually and musically with virtually no dialogue. Set in Britain between the end of World War II and the late 1960s (instead of the entire 20th century of the album), "Tommy" chronicles the adventures of the young Tommy Walker. Following a traumatic experience in childhood, which causes him to withdraw from the world, Tommy emerges an unwilling hero, the Pinball Wizard, who must live up to the expectations of his demanding, even fascistic, followers.

With slight reworking of the composition by Townshend to match McAnuff's vision, the duo have crafted an out-and-out stunner, which fuses the quicksilver fantasy of MTV with the spectacle of the British megamusical, a la Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Michael Tapely, a Houstonian who serves as the understudy for the title role, praised the production effusively, calling it "the best piece of theater to come out...in a long, long, time. This is what rock opera is meant to be."

While this could be dismissed as the self-aggrandizing ravings of a cast member, one need only compare Tapely's remarks with those made by The New Yorker, which has quite possibly the most staid and frumpy critics on the globe.

Their assessment: "...an indubitable thrill...full of vigor, melody, shrewd insight and the almost messianic conviction of one of rock'n'roll's finest messengers."

Perhaps it is because I am a product of the rock age, but here finally, it seems, is that perfect union between the theater and rock music. Forget "Hair"; forget "Chess"; and forget "Jesus Christ Superstar" and all those other so-called rock musicals. In "The Who's Tommy" Broadway theater and real rock'n'roll have come together at last. You will see, feel and hear like you never have before. This one is gonna be a blast.

Austin prepares for Splash Day, a festive Gay and Lesbian celebration

STATE NOTES

AUSTIN, On May 1, the Austin Tavern Guild will stage Splash Day 1994, a festive non-political event for the Gay and Lesbian community. As in years past, thousands are expected to gather deep in the heart of Texas for the famous, fabulous, fun-filled celebration at Hippie Hol-

low...a "bathing suits optional" park along with picturesque shores of Lake Travis.

The first Sunday of each May finds Hippie Hollow jammed with hundreds of boats and floats, hunks and dykes, college students, drag queens and lipstick lesbians, swimming in the water and camping on the rocky ledges. This Sunday flotilla has grown

into several days of parties, community activities and cultural events: a jamboree celebrating the pride, optimism and visibility which Gay and Lesbian Austin enjoys.

Austin, whose city council passed the first "domestic partnership" law in the southwest, has a reputation for a very positive and open atmosphere.

This year, Splash Day organizers are encouraging everyone to make plans early and to enjoy several days of Austin hospitality. ATS Travel, the official Splash Day travel agency, will arrange air, car and hotel reservations, discounted as much as 45 percent!

Call (800) 396-3666, and ask for the Splash Day specials.

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A new mixed bowling league is forming on Sunday evenings at Palace Lanes, located on Bellaire Boulevard just inside the Loop. We will bowl at 7 pm April 10 through the end of June and at 5 pm thereafter.



First night of bowling is April 10 at 7 pm with organizational meeting at 6 pm. Teams will consist of four bowlers, and will be formed at the meeting. If you don't have a team ready, come out anyway and we'll find you one!

For more information, call Tom at 522-9612.

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Kentucky student suspended, arrested, after wearing dress to school

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Friday, March 25 (AP)A teen-age student suspended and then arrested after wearing a dress to school turned down a prosecutor's offer to drop all charges if he would perform community service.

John Paul Poynter, 18, showed up for classes at Louisville's Central High School wearing an ankle-length, embroidered black dress with a side split, black pantyhose, women's shoes and a wig.

He was arrested on charges of criminal trespassing and disorderly conduct after refusing to leave the building Thursday.

Poynter explained that he was trying to express "another side of my personality" and that the issue was his right to express his homosexuality.

He spent the night in the Jefferson County Jail in lieu of a \$150 bond. But he was released on his own recognizance after an arraignment in Jefferson District Court on Friday.

Poynter, who appeared in court clad in a unisex orange jail jumpsuit, refused a county attorney's offer to perform community service in exchange for dismissal of the charges. He was scheduled to appear again on April 14.

"I wore the dress because I wanted to be myself," said Poynter, a senior. "It was just a way to say this is another side of

me."

Principal Harold Fenderson said he suspended Poynter for three days because he refused to change clothes or leave. He said Poynter refused to leave with his stepfather and ran off and hid in the school until lunch time.

Lauren Brown Roberts, spokesperson for Jefferson County Public Schools, said Poynter's dress violated district policy that a student's appearance should not be disruptive.

Fenderson said Poynter's stepfather suggested he call police and he did, because after having been suspended and asked to leave, Poynter was considered a trespasser.

Another boy, who had been a student at Central until about two weeks ago, also wore a dress but agreed to leave when asked, said Roberts.

Poynter lives with his mother and stepfather. His mother, who uses her current husband's name, asked not to be identified because she didn't want the publicity to affect other family members.

She said she knew her son intended to wear a dress to school, but she said she thought it was a school-sanctioned activity.

"I don't think what he did was right," she said. "But he's going to stand up for

what he believes in no matter what anyone thinks."

Interviewed by The Courier-Journal at the jail, Poynter said he didn't leave Central High because he had a right to be there. He said his attire shouldn't have mattered if it didn't violate the school dress code.

Poynter said it was the principal who was disrupting school by making an issue of his attire. He said reaction from some of the students was good, although two students had pulled off his wig and some had taunted him.

Poynter said he doesn't normally wear women's clothing to school, although he had come to school dressed as a woman for "Opposite Sex" dayan activity during homecoming festivities in which students can dress as the opposite sex.

"If I was violating the dress code, why was it OK to for Opposite Day?" he asked.

Loretta Stewart, assistant principal at Central, said, "When everyone is doing it (during homecoming), it's not disruptive. No one person is being singled out."

Some students signed a petition opposing Poynter's suspension, and several made supportive comments. But some said they were disgusted by his actions.

Junior Kris Thomas said he might have wanted to fight Poynter "if I had seen him in the bathroom dressed like that."

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HOUSTON VOICE

There's no Fool like and April Fool!; Happy Easter to every humpy bunny!



Top Nine and Miss Camp America 1994, Gio Sedita at the Deb U Not Ball last weekend at Rich's



Derek Cruise and Marco Rossi at Heaven were pleasing the crowd during Chi Chi LaRue's performance

HOUSTON SOAP, PART ONE

By TAD NELSON
Houston Voice Publisher
HELLO HOUSTON!

LAST WEEK...

This past weekend at GENTRY the SPRING INTO ACTION benefit show presented by the IMPERIAL COURT raised \$500.00 for the DAVID ALWELL MEMORIAL FUND.

The TRASHMASTERS are back! Fridays trashy underwear party at RICH'S was really trashy! So mark your calendars to disco down every Friday at Trash Disco. VIOLA WILLS will be performing her famous hits on Friday April 8th.

MISS CAMP AMERICA FOUNDATION kicked off the 1994 social season with a very successful DEB U NOT BALL with a record number in attendance and charity contributions, Sunday afternoon March 20th at RICH'S. \$5000 in cash and \$5600 in inkind donations were collected, all earmarked for this years selected charities to be announced by the Foundation in April. The Deb U Not Ball is the first in a series of fundraising events this year culminating with the 26th annual Miss Camp America Foundation Pageant on Sept. 17th. Thanks go out from the Foundation to Randy Huffman, Marsha Carlton, The "Southern Country" Dancers and the other entertainers that helped make this initial event of 1994 a memorable one.

It was a hot week at 800 Pacific. The festivities started on Wednesday at HEAVEN with the arrival of Adult Video's most famous director CHI CHI LARUE, with two of gay porns hottest: Marco Rossi and Derrek Cruise. These two put on a show together that few will soon forget.

Fridays are fierce at HEAVEN, this past Friday one of Adult Video's biggest came to show off what makes him one of the industry's most popular attractions. LEX BALDWIN took the stage at midnight and put on a show that pleased everyone present. After his perform-



NLA Houston tended bar for E/J's Club-night last Thursday evening. Hi, Brian

ance Lex signed autographs and posed for photos until after 2:00

a.m.

Sundays SPRING BREAK '94 FLASH-LIGHT PARTY at HEAVEN was a great success. Imagine being inside of Heaven, all of the lights are out, clothes are optional and only a flashlight to guide you. The possibilities are endless.

THIS WEEK in Houston. ...

PUSSY TOURETTE hits the stage this Thursday at CLUB HEDONISM you wanted more Pussy and you got it. If you missed her first show, don't miss this



Members of Soiree Aubergine and Gentry's owner Del McGee present a check for \$34,600 to Stacy Cokinos of Bering Care Center last Friday afternoon

one. And don't forget to mark your calendar for April 16th for another exciting concert at RICH'S. TAYLOR DAYNE hits the stage on a Saturday night. This concert kicks off a summer of exciting entertainment at Rich's.

This Thursday March 31st, GENTRY will host the player and guests of the NORTH AMERICAN GAY VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIPS being held in Houston. Over 500 participants are expected from across the continent.

You can park once and party all night at 800 Pacific Street. With the Mine at 805, J.R.'s and Santa Fe at 804 and 808, and Heaven at 810 good times are never far away. Plus... visit all of our friends at the other neighborhood bars that are in walking distance from 800 Pacific including 611, Bacchus, Cousin's, Mary's, Missouri Street Station, Pacific Street, Pas-



Christopher Graham and Oscar Paredes will represent Houston in the Mr. Gay All American Contest

Time, and Ripcord. With all of this entertainment in one place. . .

Thursdays over at the BRB the have Happy Hours till 11 pm and if you get hungry around dinner time they have HAMBURGER NIGHT out on the patio with ANIMAL. Hamburgers are .75 cents and cheeseburgers are only \$1.00.

Don't miss the 1ST ANNUAL BUNNY RUN! presented by TEXAS LEATHER AND LACE & TEXAS RIDERS on Easter Weekend. Registration begins at 10 pm Friday April 1 at the VENTURE-N and there will be a leather fantasy show. Bars included in this years run are Venture-N, Mary's, BRB, Ripcord and Bacchus. For more information contact CINDY EWING at 523-3233.

Friday April 1st come HOWL WITH THE WOLFPACK who will be guest bartending at MARY'S NATURALLY at the Main Bar from 8 pm to 2:00 a.m. Woof!

This Saturday at the CLUB HOUSTON, Damion and the guys are holding their 1st Annual TRAILER PARK SPLASH with free pool side barbeque and door prizes. It's Club Houston's own Splash

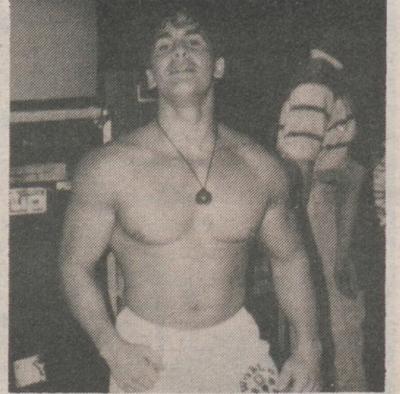
Day kickoff to Summertime fun. That's April 2nd from 1 to 3:00 p.m. Be there!

Saturday's SUPER SHOW with BRITTANY PAIGE will begin at 11:00 p.m. sharp at E/J'S with special guests, DOMINIQUE NICOLE, MISS GAY GALVESTON, TANDI COLE, AND TAYLOR KENNEDY, ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR, BEAUMONT.

Saturday at PACIFIC STREET is the LEATHER AND FLESH FANTASY NIGHT with the doors opening at 9:00 p.m. If your in the mood for hot, sweaty men then wear your

leather chaps or jock straps and remember clothes check is available. An official NAGVA '94 Championship event as the hottest men in Houston welcome our out of town guests.

The MONTROSE MINING COMPANY hosts the PETER COCK N TAIL PARTY this Saturday April 2, beginning at 7 pm on the patio. This is to be the first stop on the hare



Sexy Video Star LEX BALDWIN made a BIG impression on the people at Heaven last weekend

raising celebration of BUNNIES ON THE BAYOU. See any Bunnies for your invitation.

Easter Sunday is the ANNUAL MARY'S AND VENTURE N GREATER MONTROSE BONNET CONTEST AND HIGH HEEL RACE. The contest begins at noon at Mary's for the High Hell Race and will continue at 2 pm at the Venture N for the Bonnet Contest.

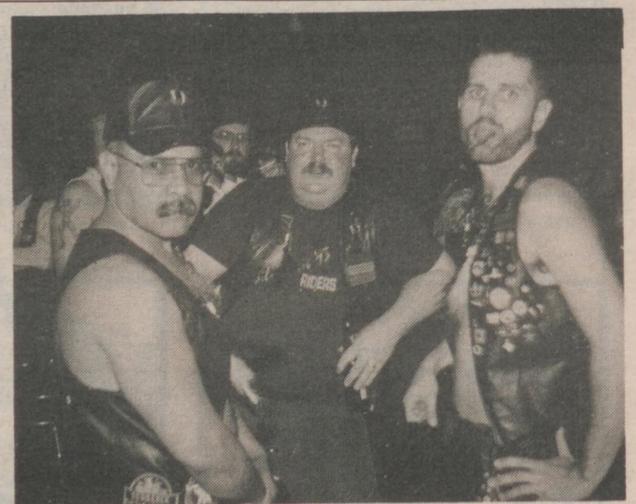
The MISS CAMP AMERICA GIRLS will host their annual EASTER BONNET CONTEST followed by the EGG-SEPTIONAL REVUE this Sunday at GENTRY beginning at 8:30 p.m.

Join your friends at RICH'S after BUNNIES ON THE BAYOU at CLUB TARTARE for two fabulous shows. Special guest TASHA KOHL will be headlining this Easter EGGSTRAVAGANZA plus DYAN MICHAELS, LAUREN BRACH, SHAWNA ROBERTS, DIVINE and Tartare's own YOLANDA. GoGo Bunnies and Easter surprises will make your day complete. Plus CAPTAIN PINK AND THE HIGH SEAS will be on the patio for it's opening day. You can park at RICH'S and take the FREE SHUTTLE BUS to the BUNNIES ON THE BAYOU Party.

Sunday April 3 at 7:00 p.m. MR BRB, EDDIE TAYLOR and MISS BRB, SHELBY ST. JOHN present P.M.S. (Pre Miss Montrose Shindig) featuring the reigning Miss Montrose, ANIMAL. Be there for this outrageous occasion.

The MONTROSE MINING COMPANY'S "MINE SHAFT BEER BUST" on the patio gets even better on Sundays. With a \$1.00 buy in and a .25 cent refill of Miller Lite Draft Beer and extended hours from 4:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m., the patio will surely get hotter as the men enjoy Houston's biggest beer bust. It's the place to be for men and decadence. Be a part of a Houston tradition.

Sunday at PACIFIC STREET is MANDANCE, Monster-T-Dance with the doors opening at 7 pm and no cover from 7 to 9. When the weather is nice outside the crowd overflows onto the patio so there's always room for more. Welcome all participants in THE FIRST ANNUAL BUNNY RUN. Join us for BOBBING FOR EGGS a fun and prize filled spectacle.



John, Bob & Tim at RENEGADES 9TH. Tim is that an invitation?

Amateur Talent Final at E-J's; Austin SPLASH coming soon; Women of FIST



ZACK, RON, JR., MAUDE, VICTOR & JOHN are the new staff at COUSIN'S. Get off yer duff and go by for a visit!



SHIRLEY, LEE, MISSY (Lee's real girl sister), BOY TOY & kneeling again Brian



Crystal Rae Lee Love, gurl, that's not a cocktail glass dear!

Houston Soap, Part Two

By TAD NELSON

Houston Voice Publisher

The gang at the BRAZOS RIVER BOTTOM is offering HAPPY HOUR all day each Monday. That's from 7:00 a.m. till 2:00 a.m. WOW! With \$1.50 cocktails and \$1.75 longnecks.

Time is running out for SOLOFLEX TUESDAY'S at JR'S. Every Tuesday at JR'S you can register to win the SOLOFLEX MACHINE or \$500 in CASH. The drawing will be held on the last Tuesday of this month, April 26th during the Tuesday show with emcee KOFI.

Tuesday is AMATEUR TALENT NIGHT FINALS with BRITTANY PAIGE at E/J's. Go by and see some real talent and enjoy the show and great cocktails provided by ED, JEFF and the gang.

Tuesday at PACIFIC STREET is EXECUTIVE NIGHT. Doors open at 9 pm for Houstons only midweek office party where you pay no cover with you own personalized business card or a Pacific Street free pass.

The MONTROSE MINING COMPANY opens every day at 1:00 p.m. Most days you will find RED BARRY there to serve up a drink and a smile. And the party continues into the night with AFTER HOURS until 4:00 a.m. on Friday and Saturday, with HARDCORE DANCERS...all night long.

Don't miss KARAOKE NIGHT at E/J's beginning at 8 pm each Wednesday night. The evening is hosted by Bill Sansom and is in conjunction with STEAK NIGHT ON THE PATIO at 6 pm with LUCY. E/J's does have one of the best steak nights in town for a very reasonable price. Try it and get the Karaoke entertainment for free!

Wednesday is HOT HUMP NIGHT at PACIFIC STREET with the doors opening at 9:00 p.m. Victor Toledo plays this weeks current Billboard Hit Videos. And there's no cover if you been in previously and

received a free admission from you favorite bartender.

Incredible crowds and lots of hunky flesh can be found at GENTRY every Wednesday for their MALE STRIP CONTEST hosted by MISS GAY TEXAS, DYAN MICHAELS.

COMING UP In Houston. ...

GENTRY's Softball Team is sponsoring a car wash on the clubs parking lot on Saturday April 9th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Mark your calendar for April 16th and 17th as GENTRY presents their first annual BOY TOY OF THE YEAR CONTEST.

On May 1st the Austin Tavern Guild will stage Splash Day 1994, a festive non-political event for the gay and lesbian community. As in years past, thousands are expected to gather deep in the heart of Texas for the famous, fabulous, fun-filled celebration at Hippie Hollow "bathing suits optional" park along the picturesque shores of Lake Travis.

OTHER NOTES. ...

ANGELS, Women's Softball begins March 12 and anyone interested needs to contact MARY BETH at 864-0871 or ASHLEY at 721-6854. Practice has already begun on Saturdays at Love Field located at the corner of 13th and Shepherd.

Here's a new one on me. Take a walk on the wild side with F.I.S.T. (Females in Search of Trouble) This is not a political group, but is instead a women's S&M

club. The soul purpose of this group is reported to be to educate, support and enjoy each other in sisterhood and S/M. F.I.S.T. is a women's ONLY S/M, Bondage, Discipline and leather club. For more information call 528-2127.

Well as we predicted RICHMOND NEWS AND VIDEO was again the place to be... the hot arcade was hopping with activity with spring breakers. We also saw some of the Men of Muscle Dancers strutting their stuff in the arcade as well. Richmond News and Video located inside the loop between Wesleyan and Mid Lane is the place to be and be seen. Scott and the rest of his staff at RNV always make you feel comfortable and welcome and remember the videos are all ready to take home with one of the easiest rental programs in town. (Never a membership fee). So make it a point to stop by and see Scott and the rest of the staff at Richmond News and Video.

The MIDTOWNE SPA is having some great Easter Specials. If you buy a Workout Pass for one month you get a 2nd month for only 1 cent. That's a pretty good deal for a great workout and use of the club. N'est pas?

Bill Pearse, manager of BASIC BROTHERS., puts the finishing touches on another masterpiece. His eye-catching window displays always attract attention at 1232 Westheimer. Customers go to Basic Brothers not only for the great selection of clothing by also to see the visual excitement Bill has created. See photo this issue.

There's a new store opening at 414 West Gray. UPTOWN LIQUORS will be a great place for you who live in Montrose to stop by and purchase your

favorite alcoholic beverage to take home for that special party. This new Family liquor store is between Montrose and Taft on West Gray and they offer retail or wholesale from 10:00 a.m. to 9 pm Monday through Saturday.

Sorry Oscar (2nd runner up to Mr. Gulf Coast All American in Baton Rouge 2 weeks ago), but last week a picture of Christopher and yourself was supposed to run with soap, but obviously did not. So I hope it will be included in this issue.

A Happy Belated Birthday to Mary's new barback ROBB!

I'd like to thank local artist JAMES PREUSS for his submission of his incredible fantasy artwork for our April 1st issue of the Houston Voice Blue Pages. If you haven't seen the rest of this collection of art, it is on display down at the VENTURE-N and you might find it really interesting. Thank you James, not only for your great art but for allowing us to use it in the spirit we are offering it for APRIL FOOLS.

Speaking of April Fools...Sheri and I have had a great time this week trying to find and put together some fun parodies on local new and publications. I hope that you all take them in the spirit that they are offered (fun) and not as serious gospel. Look for the little joker symbol near each of the parodies for this special April Fools issue and don't become and April Fool yourself!

I'm going to be on a tropical vacation for a while so you'll be enjoying Houston Soap as prepared for you by Don, Carolyn and Ron. You enjoy the Soap, I'll enjoy the sun. Bali Hai is calling. Got to go, gurlis!

BYE FOR NOW!



Members of SUNDANCE raise money during their bake sale last weekend at MARY's naturally



LADY V takes a pie on the patio at MARY'S



Bill Pearse does some great displays at BASIC BROTHERS

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GOSH, IT'S DIFFICULT DECIDING ON JUST WHICH OF THEM TO SET DOWN ON PAPER EVERY OTHER WEEK!

EVENTUALLY THOUGH-I NEVER KNOW JUST WHEN OR WHERE-IT'LL BECOME CLEAR TO ME WHICH DIRECTION TO TAKE AND I'LL BE READY TO BEGIN....



AS ALWAYS, TO INSURE THAT special "CURBSIDE™" QUALITY, I DOUBLE-CHECK EACH ASPECT OF EVERY PANEL, EVERY WORD...I JUST CAN'T DISAPPOINT MY FAITHFUL READERS.....



YES, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I TRULY DO SUFFER FOR MY art.....



...ESPECIALLY WHEN I FINALLY SHOW THE THE COMPLETED WORK TO MY NUMBER ONE FAN....



Pre-April showers slightly dampen Island Fest, but the shows go on!

GALVESTON SOAP

By JERRY STUART
 Houston Voice/Galveston

Once again, mother nature tinkled on our parade, or festival in this case.

The record number crowds expected to flock to Moody Gardens for "Island Fest 94" this past weekend dwindled to approximately 20,000 due to the bad weather. You all know how the girls just hate to get their do's wet. In spite of the cold rainy weather the show still went on. It seemed that the 20,000 people that did blow in for the show raised such a ruckus that some of the older west end residents complained about the noise. The local men in blue didn't pay much attention to the complaints though. You know how it is with small town cops; they don't leave the donut shops unless there is a terrorist attack or something of the nature. It was just as well they didn't respond to the complaints. I mean, it was bad enough with the weather being ugly; the garden partiers didn't need the authorities telling them to turn the music down.

The Miss Jefferson County Pageant that was held at the Kon Tiki club this past Friday evening went over without a hitch. The pageant was presented by Ram Productions this year. The winner of this years Miss Jefferson County title went to Chevelle Brooks. "Congratulations, Chevelle." I would also like to take this time to congratulate



Bianca Snow (1st Runner Up), Coco (Miss Texas USA '93-'94), Chevelle Brooks (Miss Jefferson County '94-95), Black Velvete (Miss Jefferson County '93-94) and Sivi Ross (2nd Runner Up)

Tommie Ross for taking 1st runner up in the National Pageant in Atlanta. The first runner up for Miss Jefferson County was Bianca Snow and the 2nd runner up was Sivi Ross. The

Miss Congeniality award went to Kia this year. As for the entertainment; Kofi, Cocoa (Miss Texas U.S.A.), Taylor Kennedy and Velvete herself put on a hell of a good show.

The Kon Tiki is planning another good show this weekend with Lawanda Jackson performing Saturday evening. And coming soon C.C. Rae is on a national tour and the Kon Tiki Club will be bringing him to Galveston. He does illusions of Barbara Streisand, Pee Wee Herman, Eunice of Mama's Family and Peg Bundy. Watch for ads in upcoming issues for exact times and dates.

Laffitte's also had a great show last Saturday evening. Seems there is a new girl in town. Her name is C.C. Rider and she is a real bomb shell. I met her in the dressing room while trying to recruit one of the other girls to do a gig for a straight crowd at a 40th birthday party. Well, C.C. filled the bill and agreed to do a number at the party that had an attendance of about a hundred people. She was a total surprise for the birthday boy and the crowd applauded and cheered as this very talented entertainer exited the building. The show at Laffitte's that evening also included Buffie Galore, Crystal Tremaine and Cassie Nicole.

This Sunday is Easter so I'm off to get some grass for my basket and some dye for the eggs. I would like to wish you all a Happy Easter and hope to see you out.

This has been your friendly island reporter now signing off.





Unity '94

This June, over **15,000 athletes** from more than **40 countries** will participate in Gay Games IV — that's **5,000 more people** than the Barcelona Olympics.

That makes Gay Games IV the largest international sporting event ever. But add to this a Cultural Festival featuring music, art, drama and dance of **5,000 artists**. Then follow this spectacular week with the 25th anniversary commemoration of **Stonewall**. Now you have a sports, arts, social and political event our community will never forget. The place is **New York City**. The dates, **June 18-25th, 1994**, with the Stonewall 25 march on June 26th. And you're invited to join the **500,000 other participants** for a celebration like no other in history. Don't miss your chance to be a part of it.

Come to the Gay Games IV & Cultural Festival - followed by Stonewall 25 - and watch the world come together.

Bigger than the Olympics.

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It's the right thing to do!

The Houston Voice welcomes well-written, insightful and to-the-point opinion pieces for our editorial page. We also welcome "counterpoint" articles that represent a different view on the issues approached in commentaries that we have run. We reserve the right to edit for length, format and readability, and we will run only one full-length counterpoint to an opinion piece. Shorter responses may run as "letters to the editor" at our discretion.

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Artwork by David Lozano

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Photo © Jeff Palmer. Available at 619.696.6908.

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Drinks
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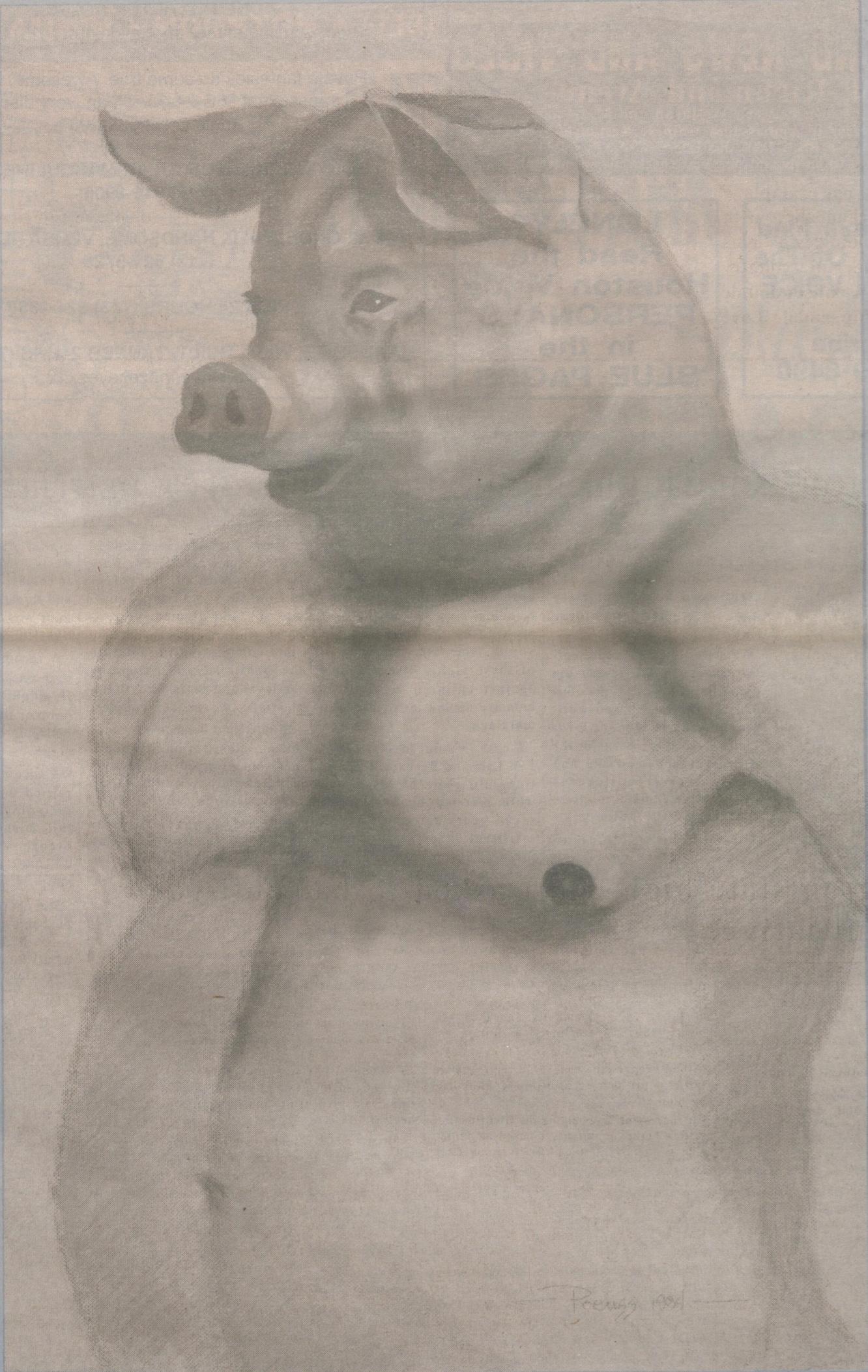
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Art by:
James Pruess

The Hot Arcade is hopping with activity with Spring Breakers. See some of the Men of Muscle Dancers strutting their stuff in the Arcade as well. Richmond News & Video, located inside the Loop between Wesleyan and Mid Lane, is the place to be and be seen. The videos are all ready to take home with one of the easiest rental programs in town (Never A Membership Fee) so make it a point to stop by and see Scott and the rest of the Staff at Richmond News and Video.

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Hawaii tourism caught in middle of same-sex marriages fight

By BRUCE DUNFORD
FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

HONOLULU, Friday, March 25 (AP) "Marriage is to show your love for each other," says Joseph Melilio, who wants to legalize his 16-year relationship with his lover, Pat Lagon.

"Same sex couples love each other just as much as opposite sex couples," Melilio said. "We just want the same rights as everyone else, nothing more and nothing less."

The state's denial of marriage licenses to Melilio and Lagon and two lesbian couples has led to a major legal and political controversy over whether Hawaii should be the first state in the nation to license same-sex marriage.

And the often-raised issue of impact on the tourist industry, the state's economic lifeline, figures prominently in the debate.

The three couples filed a lawsuit after they were denied marriage licenses in 1992, but a state judge rejected their arguments and dismissed the case.

However, the Hawaii Supreme Court ruled last May that the ban on same sex marriage is unconstitutional on the basis of gender discrimination unless the state can show a compelling reason for keeping it.

The case isn't scheduled for trial again on the "compelling interest" issue until April 1995. But lawmakers are trying to head off a judicial decision with a legislative resolution of the question.

Legislators want to clarify that they never meant for Hawaii's law to allow marriages between partners of the same sex.

The idea is to stop the Supreme

Court from making the decision by showing that the court has misconstrued legislative intent, said Senate Judiciary Committee chairperson Rey Graulty.

The state House of Representatives passed a bill saying the compelling interest is the concern for the health and well-being of future generations. This concern is the basis for the state regulating marriage and issuing marriage licenses only to male-female couples, according to the bill.

The bill does nothing to change any existing rights, and arguments that it makes procreation the state's policy are false, said House Judiciary chairperson Terrance Tom.

"The bill does not denigrate anyone's lifestyle, or dictate anyone how to live their lives or who to love," he said.

The Hawaii Equal Rights Marriage Project (HERMP), formed in the wake of the court ruling, opposes Tom's bill.

"We believe that marriages and families should be based on love, commitment and dedication to the happiness and well-being of our loved ones and not on our appearance or our ability to bear children," said group spokesperson Maggie Tanis.

While the intent is to promote the health and well being of children and families, restricting the benefits of legal marriage to couples of the opposite sex could harm children of lesbian and gay parents, Tanis said.

Such couples can and do have children from previous heterosexual relationships, adoptions or from new conception techniques available to childless couples, she said.

"Yet, the children of gay and lesbian couples are denied

many of the rights and benefits that affect their well-being, including health care, insurance and inheritance that are provided only to families recognized by the state as legal units," she said. "The denial of these rights discriminates against children whose parents are denied legal access to marriage."

A case in point involves Drs. Lyn Lam and Barbara Warkus, Honolulu gynecologists who were married by a minister seven years ago and through artificial insemination have three children from the same biological father.

Without a state-sanctioned marriage, they fear one or more of their children could be taken away by the state from the surviving partner should one of them die, or they would not have a say in health care decisions should one partner become seriously ill.

State licensing of same-sex marriages probably would lead to more monogamous relations among gay and lesbian couples because it would give the relationships validation, Lam said.

It also would be easier for the children of same-sex couples to be accepted in a less prejudiced society, she said.

Graulty wants to amend the House bill to note that the Supreme Court's ruling has confused discrimination on the basis of sex, which is prohibited, with discrimination based on sexual orientation, which is not prohibited.

Another compelling interest, according to Graulty's proposed amendment, is that state licensing of same-sex marriages would put Hawaii at odds with all other states and probably the rest of the world in marriage policy.

Other jurisdictions could refuse to recognize not only Hawaii same-sex marriages but possibly all Hawaii marriages, according to the proposal, which would also set up a state commission to look into the possibility of extending the legal and social benefits of marriage to same-sex couples.

Graulty had considered a proposed constitutional amendment but dropped that idea on grounds that it would be too divisive.

Threats of travel boycotts have come from religious and family values groups on one side and from the gay and lesbian community on the other.

Dieter Huckestein, president of the Hilton Hawaiian Village and chairperson of the state-financed Hawaii Visitors Bureau, said he had received 50 letters from people who said they would boycott Hawaii should same-sex marriages be allowed.

Kevin Kailey, president of the International Gay Travel Association, however, said the tourism boycott in response to Colorado's recent anti-homosexual referendum would pale in comparison of what could happen to Hawaii.

HERMP spokesperson Evelyn Blackwood, however, said her group does not support any boycott of Hawaii tourism. "We want to people to continue coming to beautiful Hawaii," she said.

Graulty said lawmakers should not let threats of boycotts affect their decision.

"We on the committee want to do the best possible job and come up with the best possible solution to the problem. And the fact that there are going to be boycotts and consequences that we cannot really control, then I don't think we want to

make a decision on that basis," he said. "Otherwise, it comes down to intimidation and threats and that's not something we want to give a lot of credence and weight to."

A recent (Feb. 12-17) public opinion poll conducted for the Honolulu Advertiser found 67 percent of the 605 responding residents oppose same sex marriage.

A wide range of church leaders rallied to support Tom's bill, including Diocese of Honolulu Bishop Francis X. DiLorenzo who urged Hawaii's 232,000 Roman Catholics to support it.

The church views the union of husband and wife as a special role which serves as the model of all human relationships, he said.

One of the benefits of marriage "is that children are literally loved into existence," he said. "Society protects the true marital relationship and grants it a certain status and benefits because it values the bearing and raising of children."

Mormon leaders have urged the church's 40,000 members in Hawaii to speak out against same-sex marriages. A statement from the church's policy-making body in Salt Lake City was read recently to Hawaii members.

Sara Banks, in testimony opposing the House bill, said legalizing same-sex marriages "would encourage gays and lesbians to flock to Hawaii to get married, honeymoon, spend money and go back home to challenge their home state to recognize their unions."

"Hawaii actively promotes Japanese weddings here, why not gay weddings?" she said.



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Nevada coalition formed to fight Oregon group's anti-gay initiative

LAS VEGAS, Friday, March 25 (AP) A coalition has been formed to fight plans by an Oregon group to place an anti-gay initiative on the Nevada ballot.

Organizers of the Campaign for Liberty held a press conference Thursday to say they will fight the proposed initiative, which would mean civil rights laws do not apply to homosexuals.

Gay rights activists in North-

ern Nevada have been much more vocal about their opposition since the Nevada Citizens Alliance filed the initiative petition Jan. 25.

Timothy Chanaud, an executive at R&R Advertising Inc. and the campaign manager for Campaign for Liberty, said the past two months have been spent building a coalition to oppose the initiative that would change Nevada's Constitution and allow discrimination against gays.

Chanaud and 22 others appeared at the press conference to show broad-based opposition to the Nevada initiative.

Beverly Baum, the coalition's spokesperson, said the coalition was diverse and included both gays and straight people.

The initiative's advocates must gather 51,339 signatures from registered voters by June 21 to qualify for the November ballot. A constitutional change would require voter

approval in 1994 and in 1996.

Baum said the Nevada Citizens Alliance was operating a "Stealth campaign" that is working well.

"Our objective is to have people read it and understand it," she said. "It's designed to mislead."

The initiative would forbid any legalization of marriage between homosexuals or granting of spousal benefits to gays or lesbians.

Daisy Stanley of Reno, director of the alliance supporting the initiative, said Thursday she had no idea how many have signed the 15,000 to 20,000 petitions that are being circulated.

Lucille Lusk, a Las Vegas and executive director of the conservative Nevada Concerned Citizens, said petitions are being circulated by her members, but that the campaign needs to become more organized.

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Houston Gay Personals

DOES THE OUTDOORS, ANIMALS AND PLANTS

appeal to you? Are you a slim, warm, considerate, GM between 30-45? I am a GWM, br/br, 5'10", 160lbs, 40, handsome, trim, and smooth, NS, DDF. Likes long walks, swimming, and intelligent conversation. Enjoy spiritual topics (a Course in Miracles), new age thought and astrology. Want intimate non-smoking buddy for companionship possibly more. Ad 25745

SEEKING AFFECTIONATE GENEROUS GENTLEMAN SUGAR DADDY

Tall, healthy, sensual, affectionate, fun, friendly, athletic, stable, ambitious, sincere, outgoing, handsome, blond, varied interests. You: fit, height/weight proportionate, affluent, very generous gentleman. Able to give: affection, fun, friskiness, contributions, gifts, travel, etc. Casual to serious relationship. Privacy, discretion, friendship, companionship assured. Let's fulfill each other's needs, wants, desires. Ad 25978

RU BETTER THAN PU**Y?

Super attractive, muscular, bearded, DDF, sex starved BIWM tired of begging girl friend for once-a-month dry shallow plow privileges. Seeking Fr. active male who offers, slow, moist, skillful, patient attention. Hot lava flows for the man who can go the distance. Ad 25781

QUALITY OLDER SEEKS QUALITY YOUNGER!

If you are young, slim, healthy, not addicted to alcohol/drugs, and would enjoy gay fun times with a mature WM who is decent, sincere, sensitive, and will treat you right, I would like to meet you. Ad 25947.

TICKLISH?

Attention: Kinky men with a taste for the unusual who crave excitement and adventure. Sleeping endorphins awake! Unwind as you never have before. Attractive WM, born day before yesterday, seeks ticklish men for ticklish times. Comfortable bondage, no sex required, satisfaction guaranteed. Ad 25768

AFFAIR PARTNER WANTED

BIWM, (in the closet), 38, 6'5", blonde, blue, workout regularly, healthy, professional, self employed, married (to a woman), seeks discreet, private, passionate, intimate affair partner for encounters during the day, you should be capable of handling an affair with a married man, healthy, nice looking, weight and height proportionate. Ad 25779

GOOD LOOKING DADDY! ARE YOU OUT THERE?

Attractive, muscular, hairy boy is seeking very muscular, very hairy, very endowed daddy, non-smoker a must; Me: 32 years, Italian, endowed and relationship oriented. You: 35 to 45 yrs., facial hair a plus! Please respond only if serious. Ad 25782

SPANKINGS NEEDED

W/M, 33, needs older white gentleman (mid 50's late 60's) to help me correct my behavior by administering spankings. Must be safe, sane and want to help me grow as a person via meaningful discipline. Ad 25734

GAY SWEEPSTAKES!!! YOU MAY WIN!!!

Me: GWM, 42, 5'11", 175, dark hair, blue eyes, professional, discreet, stable, DDF, non-smoker, handsome, endowed and "natural." You: GWM, 20-30, honest and good looking. To enter: Please respond by describing yourself and why I should choose you to take to dinner. Extra credit awarded for certain attributes! Ad 25738

SCORPIO LOVERS ARE WONDERFUL MAGIC MAKERS

GWM, 6', 190, br/br, handsome, distinguished, professional, well-educated, and traveled, socially and financially secure, in search of a drug/smile free masculine GWM 30+. Healthy, happy, honest, sincere, romantic, fun-loving guy. One who enjoys dining by candlelight, quite evenings at home, "black-tie affairs," old movies, opera, theater. Most important loving and being loved and wanting a long term monogamous relationship. Ad 25275

SAGITTARIUS

GWM, youthful 50 y.o., bld/green, moustache, 175#, 6', DDF, nice looking, low key, professional, interest in the Arts, all music, dancing, old movies and quiet evenings with you. Like to find that true, healthy man ready to settle down and committed to a monogamous and growing relationship. Ad 25767

SLEEPLESS IN BRENHAM! (ONE HOUR TO HOUSTON)

Sooner or later I won't have to remind myself to wake up in the morning or breath in and out. If you feel like this then maybe we can make magic. I'm a GWF looking for someone who is also sleepless. I can't meet you on the Empire State Building but I can meet you anywhere else. Ad 25721.

NEED DADDY YOU NEVER REALLY HAD?

Mature, professional, very hairy body/hairy chest, Edwardian beard, (sign of Cancer) . You, mentally mature, non-smoker, into safe fun. Please respond to Ad 25916.

DOMINANT GWM

40, 145, 5'9 seeks GWMs into S/M -B/D. Limits respected. Ad 25336.

LONDON, PARIS, SYDNEY, NEW YORK CITY

Travel companion wanted for traveling around the USA and the world. Travel agent needs reliable and responsible GM to accompany him to split cost at discounted prices. Must be non-smoker and drug free. Prefer light drinker to non-drinker. Passport required. Possible relationship. Ad 25972

INTRIGUE! SUSPENSE! ROMANCE! TERROR!

All in the comfort of one's living room. Montrose gaming group being assembled. Experience with role playing games not necessary. Just a sense of whimsy, a flair for style and a thirst for adventure required. Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men ... Find out! Ad 25773

"LET'S HAVE A DATE?"

Man to man, let's connect! Well adjusted, high-spirited, good-looking, masculine, "well built", GM, 36, 6', 170lbs., gr/br, DDF, non-smoker/medium drinker looking for same to date/sleep with/be in a relationship with. I'm through with bars and attitude; Let's treat ourselves to a little intimacy, honesty, and adventure. I have multi-various interests...we have a lot to talk about... Please respond for more details. Ad 25759

OUTGOING, ATTRACTIVE, MASCULINE, PROFESSIONAL

seeks same GWM/BIWM for special friend and safe fun. I and respondent will have a great sense of humor, weight in proportion to height (or thin), DDF/NS, under 45 years of age, clean shaven (moustache okay), not into bars or S & M, and have time to spend with a new special friend. Ad 25011.

YOU MUST BE SINCERE FOR ...

consideration by this attractive, 43 y.o., hirsute, GWM, 6'2", 185lbs, br/hzl. I'm educated, professionally employed, good sense of humor. Enjoy home life, good friends, music, dinner in/out and occasional travel. You are 30-45 y.o., handsome, masculine, GWM, HWP, NS, DDF, employed, affectionate, relationship oriented, sense of humor, kind heart and sincere! Ad 25769

WE WANT MORE!

Couple seeks singles and couples for safe fun. Male number one is a GWM, blonde, green, 5'7", 135lbs. Male number two is a GMM, 6'6", 140lbs. Both are good looking and well-endowed. If interested, please respond now. Ad 25754

EPITOME OF FEMININITY!

Looking for an extremely ultra-feminine woman, slim/medium build, a warm, gentle, calm, stable, positive personality who'll be the "center of my attention, who loves being pampered. Me: GWF, soft butch, small build, blonde/blue. I like doing unto a woman as I would have her do unto me. Ad 25553.

I AM FROM THE REAL WORLD!

GWF -are you from the real world??? Me: 26, 5'1, 115lbs., br/gr. I am polite, caring, understanding, open minded, very mellow etc. and am looking for the exact same in another GWF. Relocating to Galveston. So let's become friends and do the things we all normally do and hope that it leads to more. Ad 25967

LOOKING FOR SINGLES AND COUPLES

We are in our late 30's looking for singles and/or couples for safe fun. We are both DDF. Serious replies only. Ad#25709

WELL ENDOWED, HEALTHY, MASCULINE CUTE GWM

outgoing, DDF/NS wants to meet other(s) the same for friendship and safe fun. If you are well-endowed, masculine, attractive, under 45 years of age, weight in proportion height, outgoing, not into S & M, DDF/NS, and want to meet the same respond to Ad 25749.

SUBMISSIVE MEN!

are sought by Houston man (44, 5'9", 180, hairy, aggressive, demanding). Seeking 21-48, masculine, any race. I travel on business so out-of-town replies are welcome. Ad 25134

LOOKING FOR 20-60LBS OVER-WEIGHT GWF

who's bubbly, fun and down to earth, romantic, loyal and honest. No rules, games, not afraid of commitment, not butch. Likes to be wined, dined and romanced. I'm 31, 5'2", br/br, medium build, 20lbs overweight with high libido, very romantic. Likes jet skiing, movies, weekend travel. Friends first. If your from out of town let's hear from you too! Mature only ages 25-39. Ad 25753

VERY ATTRACTIVE, SINCERE, DARK HAIR, BLUE EYES, 5'10" AND 180LBS., INTERESTED IN MEETING SOMEONE TERRIFIC FOR A LONG TERM MONOGAMOUS RELATIONSHIP ... FUN TO BE AROUND, INTERESTING, FOCUSED, MASCULINE AND SINCERE.

Ad 25783

MARRIED MEN

Spend quality time day or night w/semi-retired GWM in Houston. Ad 25328

ATTENTION: WHITE CALVIN WEARERS

GWM, Daddy bear, 43, 5'6", moustache, balding, hunky, HIV-. Successful professional with a dry sense of humor and a lot of energy. Not looking for love, relationship, or anything serious-just someone who wants to play and who likes to cuddle after. If you are 23-35, straight, bi, or gay, athletic, and look hot in white Calvins, why not give it a try? Attorneys, architects, doctors a plus. Ad 25387

COME OUT OF MY DREAM...

and into my life! I'm searching for another unattached, positive minded, versatile, financially secure and mature, Gay female who has a sense of humor seeks fun and adventure and loves to enjoy life. Ad 25748

BLACK ATTACK!

Very good-looking GWM, crazy about experiencing black guys. I'm 6 ft. tall, well-muscled, trendy, work out regularly. I'm safe, disease-free and ready to go. Not interested in relationships - just hot fun. You gotta respond to this! Let's go! Ad 25531.

LONELY BIWM SEEKING SAFE FUN

I'm 5'6", weight proportionate, DDF/NS/LD, average looks, 44, sincere, discreet, masculine, likes sports, reading, movies, dining out and intimate evenings plus a BIGWM with same qualities as above. Experienced, average looks, height/weight proportionate 30-50, DDF/NS/LD equals safe fun times -no strings, let's talk. Let's meet and talk. Ad 25378

MALE COUPLE SEEKING HOT PLAYMATE!

GWM couple, mid 50's and 20's, both bearded (5'8", 250 -6', 185). Seeking young hung, hot, hard, hairy, multi-organic, GWM/GMM/GHM for a top position and french action. Bare upper torso/swimsuit photo or any photo appreciated. Ideal for a young top seeking fun times. Voice box 25911 detailing your interest.

BABY WANTED!

By attractive, stable, professional, white woman who is racing the biological clock. Seeking attractive, intelligent caucasian male or male couple for cooperative effort in having a child. Full custody for the mother but father (s) can alternatively have plenty of involvement/visitation alternately. Would also consider a platonic "marriage of convenience" so that both parents could live with the child. Ad 25740

IN THE ARMS OF LOVE, FRIENDS ...

Professional, GBM, 40ish, height/weight proportionate, HIV+ with a positive attitude and good health. No mind games, just honesty. Enjoy walks, music, movies and quiet times at home. You: GSM, GMM or GWM, honest first, sensitive, warm and emotionally strong. Let's see what happens! Ad 25758

RESTLESS IN MON-TROSE, SEEKS PLAYMATE

Playmate should be a GWM, 35-45 who is a "top" only for this GWM, 41, HIV+, 5'9", 140#, br/br with moustache playmate. I am of small endowment, "bottom" only, but active/passive in all other areas of play. Cuddling, exploring each others bodies and having a mutually hot time is what I desire. I smoke and occasionally drink, if you think I could be your plaything then please respond to Ad#25904

COME OUT OF MY DREAM...

and into my life! I'm searching for another unattached, positive minded, versatile, financially secure and mature, Gay female who has a sense of humor seeks fun and adventure and loves to enjoy life. Ad 25748

BLACK ATTACK!

Very good-looking GWM, crazy about experiencing black guys. I'm 6 ft. tall, well-muscled, trendy, work out regularly. I'm safe, disease-free and ready to go. Not interested in relationships - just hot fun. You gotta respond to this! Let's go! Ad 25531.

LOOKING FOR COMPANIONSHIP!

I am a White Hispanic, DDF, 32 yr. old bottom, looking for a dark Hispanic or an African American top under 36 yrs. old able to work it out as a friend all the way into a special relationship. I love independence, social events, joyful moments and honest individuals. Ad 25765

ATTENTION -NUDIST

GWM, 45, 5'6", 142#, br/ hazel with salt and pepper beard, DDF, smoker and a nudist. This nudist would like to get together for social non-sexual encounters. Just the enjoyment of viewing each other's bodies. Ad 25772

HEARTTHROBI!

32 yr. old healthy professional, 6'1", 170lbs, well built, black/brown, moustache, sensual, attractive, witty, and loves good company. Enjoy dining out, movies, theater and anything else. You: same age group, build, looking for fun times and maybe more. Go ahead! Take a chance! Ad 25784

STABLE PROFESSIONAL WITH HIDDEN WILD STREAK!

Me: GWM, 32, brown hair/ eyes, smooth, 6', 185#, masculine, very healthy, HIV+, Montrose homeowner. You: 20's to 30's, very hairy, masculine, very healthy. You and I: Very financially secure yet very down to earth, looking for an intensely passionate emotional/sexual relationship without financial entanglements or required cohabitation. Ad 25746

MAN TO MAN!

GWM, 38, independent, fun-loving person, romantic, passionate, aggressive, HIV+. Who is active and enjoys working out and living life day to day. Seeks GWM in shape (30 to 40) who would enjoy an evening of good safe fun...possibly longer. Ad 25780

I'M TIRED OF BEING SINGLE!

GWM 27, 5'8", 150lbs, blonde/bl, NS, masculine, attractive, romantic, funny, and caring. Looking for a sincere GW-HM (25-35) who is attractive, exercises regularly, and is not afraid of intimacy. If a relationship is not in the cards, friendship is also nice. Prefer someone who doesn't mind a 30 minute driving distance. (I'm near NASA). Ad#25155

SOUTH AMERICAN COUPLE WANTS A BOY!

We 25/34 y.o., white, nice looking. You: 18-22 y.o., white, cute, boyish good looks, slim, DDF who likes an intimate cozy friendship. Social drinking and smoking okay and must like pets. Ad 25747

"European male, 55 years of age, 5'10", 135lbs. Residing in Florida. Excellent health, clear thinking, emotionally secure with spiritual horizon. I want L.T.R. with WGM 18-38, slim built, masc. or fem. DDF. Willing to relocate. Unselfish commitment to share business & house responsibilities as well as good times." Send photo & include resume' detailing your desires & goals to Andre', P.O. Box 2074, Boca Raton, Florida 33427.

Hispanic couple seeking a bi-female, 20-35, prefer attractive anglo for a threesome. Wife is 30, 5'3", 112lbs., very attractive with long hair. Ad 9077

LOOKING FOR THE RIGHT MAN

25-45, masculine, neat in appearance and at home, DDF, NS, (light drinker) who wants to share apartment in a peaceful, quiet, very luxurious atmosphere, with a mature person. Must be financially responsible and able to afford \$400 monthly for his part of rent and utilities. Ad 25700

COME OUT, WHERE EVER YOU ARE!

GBM, 41, 5'11", 195lbs., beard and moustache, receding hairline, HIV+, asymptomatic. I enjoy good conversation, evenings at home, movies, museums, dining out, and just about anything you can think of. Seeking good natured, masculine men, H/W proportional, with similar interest for friendship, dating, and other fun activities. I want to hear from you. It's time for something different. Ad 25974

LOVE SOUGHT FOR AFFECTIONATE/ATTRACTIVE MAN

Me: GWM, 30, bi/br, 5'9", medium build, loves to dine out and movies. You: Dominant GWM/GHM, SF, DDF, must be about the same age or younger. Willing to share life and love with. Ad#25923

BABY WANTED BY GWM!

Me: Handsome, stable, self-employed. You: attractive GHF/GWF who desires no contact with infant. I would agree to having two children -1 for each if you also desire parenthood. Also if you have or know of anyone unable to care for an infant (preferably male) please contact me. Ad 25766

GWM 32 NEEDS LITTLE BROTHER TYPE!

Me: 6', 180#, brown hair/ eyes, masculine, well built, smooth body, very healthy, HIV+, stable, professional, live in Montrose, non-smoker. You: 18-early 20's, hairy, well built, masculine, very healthy, non-smoker, sincere, stable, employed. You should be looking for big brother type and hours of intense and passionate kissing. Ad 25778



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HOUSTON VOICE CONNECT LINE HOT PERSONALS

TAD, 22 yrs. old, black hair/eyes, fair complexion, clean shaven into alternative music and hanging out. Mail Box 1182

MICHAEL, 24 yrs. old, blond hair, blue eyes, clean cut, big dick. Call for fun and fun only. Mail Box 1098

MAVERICK, 24 yrs. old. Wants to meet GM between 20-30 years old. Into clubbing, partying and sex. You will not be disappointed. Mail Box 1198

ROGER, 5' 8" 150 lbs, good definition, 30 inch waist, brown hair and eyes, moderately hairy. Big cock, 8 1/2" x 5 1/2". Likes to jack off, give and receive low jobs and talk dirty on the phone. Mail Box 1176

CHRIS, 5'11" 150 lbs. brown hair/eyes. Looking for older brother type between ages of 37 - 45 to give me the discipline I need. I want to get spanked, paddled and humiliated. Mail Box 1223

MICHAEL, 23 year old slender blond hair, brown eyes. Recent U of H grad, classical musician who likes reading, music, clubbing, staying at home. Looking for friendship and possibly more. Mail Box 1199

DOUG, 27, good looking, straight acting WM, dark hair/eyes. I have a great, muscular body, and am into leather. Looking for the same with a big dick.. Mail Box 1284

DOUG, lives in Houston area. 5'11", 175 lbs, 29" waist, 17" arms, very muscular. I work out a lot! You must also. Looking for muscular guys for a good time. I like to wrestle! Mail Box 1291

MICHAEL, 6', 180 lbs, brown hair, hazel eyes, tan. Looking to meet people all over the country. I live in Texas. Want friendship plus more. Mail Box 1303

LEE. 30 years old straight acting/looking; I look 25 years old. Live in Galveston area. I have dark hair/eyes, and like working out lifting weights and biking. Looking to meet 22-30 yr old W/HISP G/BI M who is sincere, and honest for friendship leading to relationship. Mail Box 1296

Let me rub your feet! **RAY**, 6'1 1/2", live in Houston, 195 lbs, good shape, clean shaven, hairy chest. I love feet! Total discretion, no reciprocation required. Mail Box 1313

For instructions on how to respond to Houston Voice Hot Personals See our Connect Line ad on page 16.

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Rep. Frank will return to heart of civil rights movement

By MELISSA B. ROBINSON
FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

WASHINGTON, Thursday, March 24 (AP) Despite the vandalism, the threats and the neighbor who fired a gun 87 times in half an hour just to scare them, Brenda Henson says she and her partner, Wanda, have no intention of packing in their dream and moving on.

"There's no choice to do anything else as an American citizen but stand my ground," Henson said Thursday in a telephone interview from Camp Sister Spirit, the feminist retreat the lesbian couple is building in the tiny southern town of Ovett, Miss.

Still, Henson welcomes plans by U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., to hold a congressional hearing in Mississippi this spring to explore whether the government can better protect the Hensons, whose plans are opposed by area residents. Cases are pending in local and federal courts.

"I welcome any kind of intervention," Henson said. "We feel like we're just down here with no protection whatsoever and afraid of what can happen in these courts down here without someone in D.C. watching."

Frank, an openly gay member of Congress and a member of the Judiciary Committee's subcommittee on civil and constitutional rights, went to Mississippi in 1964 to help blacks register to vote.

In the Henson case, he said, "people are being discriminated against because of their personalities."

Frank said he will hold the hearing unless the dispute is resolved, despite a request from Rep. Mike Parker, D-Miss., that he back off. Federal mediators have been dispatched by U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno.

"This is a local matter and we feel it

should be handled locally," said Parker's chief of staff, Arthur Rhodes, who said the case has more to do with land use than with civil rights.

"Just like we don't have the right to build a landfill anywhere, they don't have a right to build this retreat anywhere they please," he said.

Rhodes argued the local residents oppose the retreat but are not trying to drive the Hensons off their land.

"That's not to say they condone the lifestyle of the Hensons. Nor do we," he said. "There's no legal means to say that they can't live there. They have the same rights as you and I."

Henson said the U.S. Attorney's Office, FBI and local authorities have done little so far to resolve the controversy. She said flags and signs on the property have been torn down, residents have been verbally harassed and one woman was shot at earlier this month.

Still, volunteers are refurbishing buildings on the 120-acre former pig farm, where the Hensons hope to run an educational center to teach women about such issues as sexual harassment, abuse and legal rights.

Intimidated to the point that she has stopped going to night classes and suspended plans to have her 88-year-old mother move in, Henson said her record of community work should convince the local opponents that the retreat poses no threat.

In Gulfport, the Hensons operated a food bank for senior citizens, taught displaced homemakers about going back to school and ran a resource center where people could get information about legal aid and other services.

"I wake up every morning, glad to see the sun," Henson said. "I've never been this afraid in my life."

Letter touches off calls for firing Boston teacher

By KEN GUGGENHEIM
FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

BOSTON, Friday, March 25 (AP) A high school teacher who criticized homosexuals as wicked and dangerous violated a new state law protecting the rights of gay students, according to the head of the Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth.

David LaFontaine said the teacher, Owen O'Malley, deserves to be harshly disciplined and possibly fired because of his letter published in the Boston Latin School Argo, a student newspaper.

"The letter strikes terror into the hearts of gay youth at Boston Latin High School. It gives a green light to potential gay bashers," LaFontaine said in a letter Friday to Boston School Superintendent Lois Harrison-Jones.

"O'Malley's language epitomizes the kind of cruel, abusive treatment that drives so many teens to try to kill themselves," he wrote.

School department spokesperson Larry Faison declined to say if any disciplinary action was planned against O'Malley, a Latin teacher and school committee candidate in his hometown of Cohasset.

He said the school system "does not sanction discrimination in any shape, form or fashion." But Faison also said it would be inappropriate for the school to suppress comments published in a section of the newspaper devoted to exchanging viewpoints.

O'Malley's three-paragraph letter was published last month along with other letters responding to an Argo article about gay rights.

O'Malley's letter criticized Gov. William Weld for "promoting homosexual propaganda in the public schools of the commonwealth."

He wrote that "homosexuality is a great weakness and sickness and can only be properly dealt with on an individual basis."

"Adults who deliberately engage in homosexual acts are perverse and wicked and extremely dangerous to any society," he

wrote.

O'Malley and Latin High Headmaster Michael G. Contompasis did not return messages Friday seeking comment.

Students told the Boston Herald that O'Malley previously distributed anti-gay and anti-abortion literature. Faison said Contompasis is investigating this accusation.

LaFontaine also called for disciplinary action against Contompasis for allowing the letter to be published.

"No school system would dare publish a letter from a teacher preaching Nazi propaganda," LaFontaine said. "If you change the word 'gay' to 'Jewish' in O'Malley's letter, you have a page from 'Mein Kampf,'" he said, referring to the book by Adolph Hitler.

He said that under the gay student rights law that took effect this month, gay and lesbian students could sue the school system if they believe it is violating their rights. The law prohibits harassment, violence or unfair treatment against gay and lesbian students.

Faison said the district has a longstanding policy banning discrimination against gays and has had training sessions for teachers to make them aware of the new law.

The Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights issued a statement Friday criticizing LaFontaine for his letter to Harrison-Jones, calling it "one more example of homosexual intolerance toward the opinions and the constitutional rights of the majority."

The league said "homosexual activists are not interested in ending discrimination, but in suppressing all viewpoints critical of homosexual behavior."

John Reinstein, a lawyer for the Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts, also defended O'Malley's right to express his views.

"As long as he's not teaching this in class, it seems to me that he ought to have the same right as anyone else to put his views in an open forum, as reprehensible as those views may be," Reinstein said.



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M. Reagan, Walter Lippmann, T. S. Eliot
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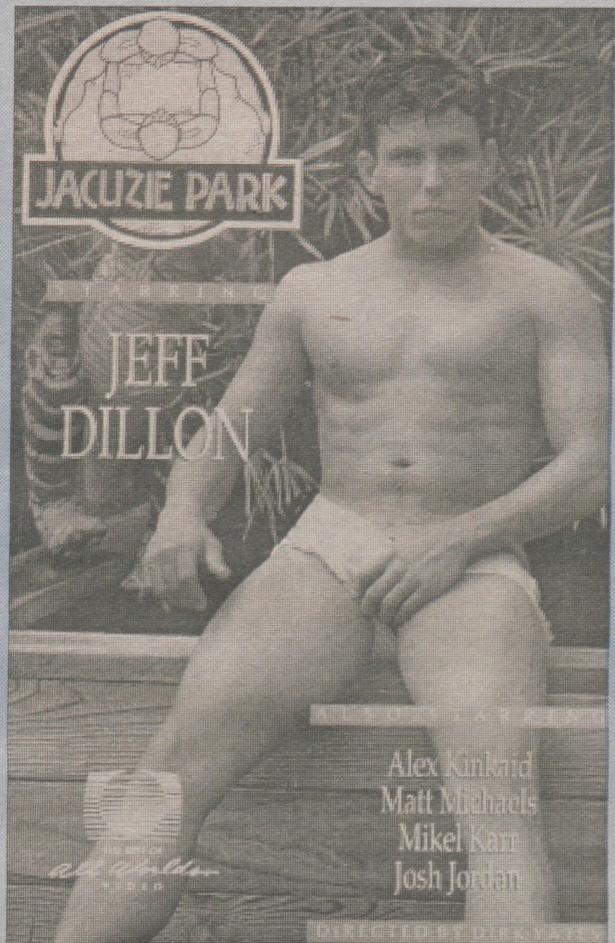
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THE HOUSTON VOICE SPECIAL PUZZLE

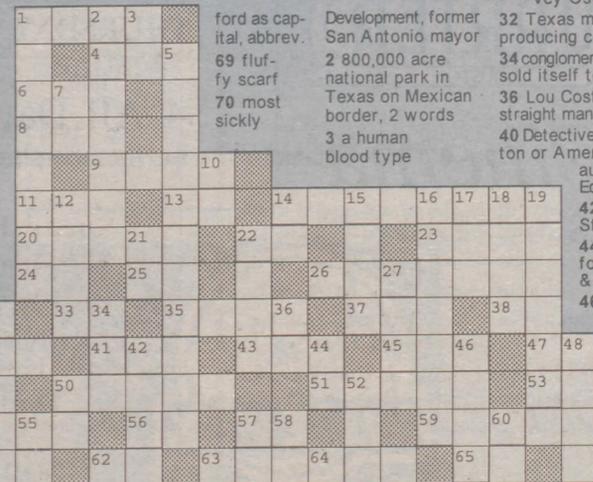
Includes Clues About Montrose, Texas Clues, Standard Crossword Clues

By Henry McClurg
ACROSS

- 1 Caribbean island nation
- 4 computer company
- 6 droop
- 8 knob
- 9 large deer
- 11 37th U.S. president, resigned from office, initials ("Why would anyone want to be President

today? The answer is not one of glory, or fame; today the burdens of the office outweigh its privileges. It's not because the Presidency offers a chance to be somebody, but because it offers a chance to do something.")

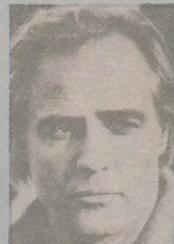
- 13 a division of the psyche
- 14 Texas' smallest county in physical size
- 20 ancient
- 22 knot, 1 nautical mile, abbrev.
- 23 notion
- 24 symbol for chemical element silicon
- 25 what entertainers Vincent Gardena & Virginia Graham have in common
- 26 space center at Houston
- 28 help
- 33 symbol for iridium, a hard, brittle element used in high-temperature materials
- 35 bracket on mast of a ship
- 37 cotton machine
- 38 Ga. GOP congressman
- 39 congressman
- 41 Roman numer-



- 2 ford as capital, abbrev.
- 3 Development, former San Antonio mayor
- 5 2 800,000 acre national park in Texas on Mexican border, 2 words
- 6 70 most sickly
- 7 3 a human blood type
- 8 31 name of theater in Dallas where police found Lee Harvey Oswald
- 9 32 Texas most oil-producing county
- 10 34 conglomerate that sold itself to G.E.
- 11 36 Lou Costello's straight man, initials
- 12 40 Detective Pinkerton or American author Edgar Poe
- 13 42 Gem State
- 14 44 abbrev. for black & white
- 15 46 Amaril-
- 16 43 short straight punch
- 17 45 lock opener
- 18 47 28th U.S. President, soldier Roosevelt, initials ("The country's honor must be upheld at home and abroad.")
- 19 49 shaft on which a wheel revolves
- 20 50 longest barrier island on Texas coast
- 21 51 at, in or to what place
- 22 53 symbol for metallic element ruthenium, used to harden platinum for jewelry
- 23 54 Horatio, 19th century American author
- 24 56 commercial in this newspaper
- 25 57 relating to me
- 26 59 kills
- 27 61 story of brave doings
- 28 62 singer Houston or actor Holden, initials
- 29 63 river that forms much of Texas' border with Louisiana
- 30 65 comedy actor Nielsen, initials, "Naked Gun 33 1/3"
- 31 66 state with Salem as capital, abbrev.
- 32 68 state with Hart-
- 33 73 oersted, centimeter-gram-second unit of magnetic intensity, abbrev.
- 34 74 large tub
- 35 75 double star 16 light years from here
- 36 77 20th century American journalist Lippmann, initials ("Only the consciousness of a purpose that is mightier than any man and worthy of all men can fortify and inspire and compose the souls of men.")
- 37 78 Cain's brother
- 38 80 American-born English critic & author Eliot, initials ("Complete equality means universal irresponsibility.")
- 39 1 U.S. Secretary of Housing & Urban
- 40 5 state bird
- 41 7 chemical symbol for gold
- 42 10 state with American pasquel flower as official flower, abbrev.
- 43 12 Roman numeral 1052
- 44 14 symbol for chemical element radon
- 45 15 encumber
- 46 16 those who get all 6 numbers in the Texas lottery
- 47 17 advertisements
- 48 18 Texas county with Centerville as seat
- 49 19 Judge Roy Bean held court here
- 50 21 abbrev. for electron volt
- 51 22 Austin radio station with presidential call letters
- 52 27 raise quickly
- 53 29 actress Davis, singer Darin, initials
- 54 30 period of time
- 55 48 trick
- 56 50 acronym for public relations
- 57 52 city of Sam Houston's burial place
- 58 55 every individual one, abbrev.
- 59 57 forerunner of Mobil which arose from Spindletop oil discovery
- 60 58 symbol for element ytterbium, used as an X-ray source & in some lasers
- 61 60 collection of misc. info on a subject
- 62 63 ocean
- 63 64 frozen water
- 64 67 actor & 40th U.S. President, initials
- 65 71 clear
- 66 72 besmear
- 67 76 reverences
- 68 79 abbrev. for baronet, a British title ranking just below a baron
- 69 The solution appears elsewhere this issue



HOROSCOPE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 2 - APRIL 8, 1994



Houston Voice readers born during this week share with Actor, Marlon Brando, born Omaha, Nebraska, 1924, the innate sense of honesty and potential of direct sexuality. <

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 19) A week of increased joy and happiness is yours to experience. Part of this will be your special looking for the upbeat side to daily events, and realizing how to turn an event into something positive and to smile about. Others will respond favorably to your wearing of a smile and offering a kind compliment to them. This will be a wonderful week for you to enjoy life and be happy about.

TAURUS (Apr 20 - May 20) Your creative side to your personality heads toward the kitchen. With scissors at hand, you will find yourself cutting recipes from the newspaper and surprising friends by how imaginative you can be with meal preparation. Entertain for no more than six persons total at one time, and limit the number of courses to five or less. Focus on seasonings rather than expensive ingredients.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21) Do not worry about feeling of increased restlessness this week as they are a natural part of the solar pattern for you at this time. Be careful about cutting your bridges behind you just because you are unhappy or needs are not being met. Unfortunately you know what pleasures are available out there and the ease with which you can usually obtain them. Look ahead to the bottom line and where you wish to be in ten years.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22) Try to remain above the gossip circle at the Office, as no good will come out of it for you. Assume that you will be discussed behind your back, as everyone in the Office has been. Who you sleep with is your business. The old saying of 'biting one's tongue' and 'counting to ten' has merit in this case. You are a good person with unrealized talent.

LEO (July 23 - Aug 22) Your attraction to beautiful things in life is especially evidence in the Spring time. Colorful flowers, bright clothing accessories, and new cosmetics are all attractive to you. Enjoy adding these items to your world this Spring. Try to surround your self with persons who share the same happy and colorful interests as you do. Let go of friends who are overly pessimistic.

VIRGO (Aug 23 - Sept 22) Consider communicating with parents and other close family members about what is important in your life at this time. Best that you stay on general terms rather than specifics, as the latter may often be too much for others out side of our life style to easily handle, even if they are part of our past. The main ideas to get across are that you are happy and goals are being recognized and achieved.

LIBRA (Sept 23 - Oct 23) For those of you interested in meeting someone special or to enlarge your circle of close friends, this next week is an excellent time to spend out and about socializing and being seen. You maybe the number prize catch in town, but if you stay at home this coming week, no one is going to notice. Dress as to attract the type of person you are really interested in finding - be honest now.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 21) This month will heighten your oral gratification interests, making a diet difficult for you to follow as you will seek the satisfaction that comes from having something to eat, chew, or otherwise have in your mouth. If you tend to be over weight, watch those calories carefully so that you do not have too many pounds to take off after the eating binge is over.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22 - Dec 21) A sense of inner calmness will be yours for the next two weeks as your bio-rhythms are more in balance and there is less turmoil within you. Take advantage of this by being unstructured as is possible, in fore going any major projects at home or the office, and relaxing with yourself in private. Limit any non prescription drugs into the body. Watch the lines of stress decrease about the face.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22 - Jan 19) Work on your tendency to be a passive aggressive personality. As you are holding inward a great deal of tension and unhappiness. Stop trying to be Ms/Mr nicely-nice and indirect with others. You have the capacity to be open and direct with others and not offend them by using common amounts of tactfulness. Get out the mirror and practice a genuine smile.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20 - Feb 18) Take advantage of this month with your increased mental organization to complete some major project at the Office. You have the ability to be concise, instructive and in charge. These qualities will make even the smallest of tasks well done and impressive, and for you to have the recognition you deserve. You are a valued person and this accomplishment will go far to aide your career.

PISCES (Feb 19 - Mar 20) Continue to work on your attention to detail, both at home and at the office. Observe in everything that you do, how to complete all projects with 'dotting the i's and crossing of the t's. This improvement on your part will separate your efforts above others at the office, and show to your special person at home, the extra amount of caring that you have toward that person.

RECIPES BY THE KUNTRY KIDD



I guess it's time for another dessert to come ya'lls way. This is one of the Trucker's "other halves" favorite. It takes a little time and work but worth the effort.

ITALIAN COCONUT CREAM

- 2 cups sugar
- 5 eggs, separated
- 2 sticks oleo
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon soda
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 2 cups coconut
- 1/2 - 3/4 cup chopped pecans
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1 - 8 ounce package cream cheese
- 1 box powdered sugar

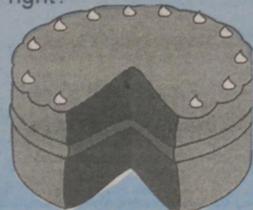
Cream sugar, egg yolks, 1/2 the oleo and shortening. Stir in flour, soda and buttermilk. Fold in 2 cups coconut, pecans, 1 teaspoon vanilla and beaten egg whites. (Beat 'til stiff but not dry).

Place batter in 3 - 9 inch layer pans, greased and floured. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 - 35 minutes.

FROSTING:

Blend cream cheese and remaining oleo. Beat in powdered sugar and remaining vanilla. Spread layers with portion of frosting mixture and sprinkle with coconut and pecans. Stack layers and frost sides with remaining frosting.

This recipe is also good if you omit the coconut, and use a package of instant chocolate pudding, whipped cream and frozen raspberries. Bake the cake according to directions, and spread the layers with the chocolate pudding and raspberries. Top with whipped cream. Oh yeah, you also omit the cream cheese frosting. Bet you already had that figured out, right?



UNTIL NEXT WE EAT!

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